CHICKASAW TIMES

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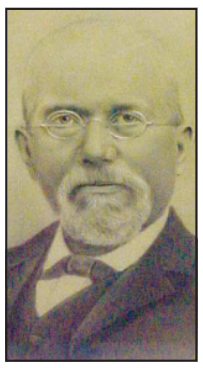
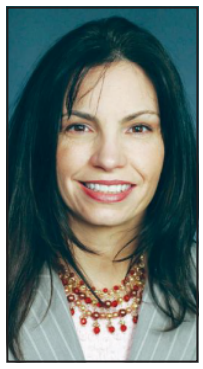
Love, Johnson-Billy, Worcester, Mobley

Four to join Hall of Fame

John Herrington



Overton "Sobe" Love



U.S. Rep. Lisa Johnson-Billy

Daniel Worcester

Tessie "Lushanya" Mobley

GOLDSBY, Okla. - A Pickens District judge, a state representative, an accomplished bladesmith, and a world-famous opera singer will be inducted into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, August 13, at Riverwind Casino in Goldsby.

Chickasaw aviator John Herrington, a former NASA astronaut and the first enrolled citizen of a Native American tribe to fly in space, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby will participate in the induction ceremonies.

"Each of these individuals has made significant contributions to the Chickasaw Nation and to the larger community," said Gov. Anoatubby. "It is our privilege to honor these individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving others."

The late **Overton "Sobe" Love** distinguished himself as a Pickens District judge and was the Chickasaw representative to Congress during the William L. Byrd Administration.

Judge Love worked extensively with the enrollment of Chickasaw citizens during the days of the Dawes Commission. He fought hard for his people at a time when the U.S. government was trying to suppress Native American culture.

The Oklahoma Constitutional Convention honored Overton Love by naming Love County after him.

In 2004, **Lisa Johnson-Billy** was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in District 42. She is the first Native American and the first woman elected from the district.

In 2006, Rep. Billy initiated the first Oklahoma Native American Caucus and currently serves as its co-chair. She is also vice-chair of the majority caucus and a deputy whip.

Prior to her election to the Oklahoma Legislature, Rep. Billy served six years as a Chickasaw Nation tribal legislator. In addition, she was an educator in the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma.

Daniel Worcester forges works of art by hand from common objects such as old wagon springs, tools and steel files. An accomplished bladesmith, Mr. Worcester creates one-of-a kind knives with handles made of a variety of materials.

His work has won many awards at major art shows, including eight first-place awards from the Santa Fe Indian Market in Santa Fe, N.M. Mr. Worcester's knives have also been exhibited at many major museums across the

SEE **HALL OF FAME**, PAGE 2

The newly renovated McSwain Theatre, owned by the Chickasaw Nation. The theatre's grand opening, is set for Saturday, July 25, 2009. Mike McKee

McSwain opening

ADA, Okla. - Not one, but three of country music's favorite recording artists have been tapped to celebrate the grand opening of the Chickasaw-owned McSwain Theatre Saturday, July 25 in Ada.

After an extensive renovation - and months of anticipation - the McSwain will host the "Honky Tonk Tailgate Party '09," featur-

SEE **MCSWAIN,** PAGE 2

Red Earth parade

Miss Chickasaw Carla Lane, Little Miss Chickasaw Chelsea Wedlow and Jr. Miss Chickasaw Julie Underwood at the Red Earth Parade. Mike McKee

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HALL OF FAME | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

United States, including the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum in Santa Fe, the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, and the Museum of Arts & Design in New York.

Mr. Worcester has participated in many Chickasaw Nation-sponsored events and has contributed his knowledge and expertise to programs supporting Chickasaw art and artists.

The late **Tessie "Lushanya" Mobley** became a world-famous operatic soprano in the 1940s and 1950s. Born and raised on a farm near Ardmore, Okla., she went on to train in music at American universities and later studied in Germany.

Sometimes called "Songbird of the Chickasaws," her first major solo performance was in the Hollywood Bowl for the 1929 Inter-tribal Indian Ceremonial. Her debut with the Chicago Opera Company at the Teatro Verdi Opera House in Trieste, Italy helped launch her career as an opera singer.

Rep. Billy and Mr. Worcester are scheduled to be present to accept their awards. Family members are expected to accept the awards on behalf Judge Love and Miss Mobley.

Hall of Fame inductees will make a red carpet entrance at 6 p.m. and a Native-themed banquet will begin at 6:30.

There is no charge to attend, but reservations are required for the event, which is expected to accommodate approximately 525 guests.

Reservations will be accepted beginning July 1. General seating will be open this year, so it is important to arrive early for the ceremony.

To make reservations, contact Brian Cooke at 580-559-0781 or e-mail brian.cooke@chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

MCSWAIN | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing recording artists Mark Wills, Jeff Bates and Trent Willmon.

"We are extremely excited about the opening," McSwain manager Judy McLellan said. "It's full-steam ahead for the McSwain, kicking off with this first show."

The "Honky Tonk" show promises to be a good one.

"These guys have been touring together since spring and we are looking forward to an excellent show," Ms. McLellan said.

Mark Wills is a multi-platinum country star with eight Top Ten singles including "19 Somethin'" and "Don't Laugh At Me."

Wills will be joined by Jeff Bates, singer of recent singles "Don't Hate Me For Loving You" and "One Thing."

The third performer in the trio, Trent Willmon has not only had success as a recording artist, but also as a songwriter for the likes of Montgomery Gentry and Brad Paisley.

"This show is an event, not just a concert, said tour booking agent Jon Folk.

"With three artists of this caliber, fans are certainly getting their money's worth."

Tickets are $25 and $30 and are now on sale. To purchase tickets, contact the McSwain office at (580) 332-8108.

For additional information on the McSwain Theatre, including upcoming events, visit www.mcswaintheatre.com .

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

McSwain to host Indian film series

ADA, Okla. - Native American-related independent films are the subject of the Holba' Kana'li (Moving Pictures) Film Series beginning August 25.

All films will be screened at the Chickasaw Nation-owned McSwain Theatre in Ada.

"We hope to bring more exposure to Native American filmmaking to the people of the Chickasaw Nation and the community as a whole," said James Wallace, Performing Arts Coordinator for the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities.

Wallace said the film series will provide a unique opportunity for participants.

"These films are generally only shown at Native American film festivals," he said.

Additional screenings are scheduled for 7 p.m. on September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15.

Specific titles are being secured and will be announced at a later date.

For more information, contact Mr. Wallace at (580) 272-5520.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

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2612 E. Arlington, Suite B
P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821
Chickasaw Times: (580) 332-2977; Fax: (580) 332-3949
e-mail: Times.Chickasaw@chickasaw.net
Chickasaw Headquarters: (580) 436-2603

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
Jefferson Keel, Lt. Governor

Tom Bolitho, Editor
Tony Choate, Media Relations Director

Carrie Buckley, Media Relations Specialist
Vicky Gold, Office Manager
Dana Hudspeth, Media Relations Specialist

Karissa Pickett, Health Communications Officer
Brooke Tidwell, Education Communications Officer

Forrest Cheadle, Summer Youth
Jeremy Oliver, Media Relations Specialist
Winter Bass, Summer Intern

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Tribal vision of strong culture requires dedication, commitment

Most Chickasaws know the mission statement of the Chickasaw Nation: "To enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw People."

It is a very simple mission statement, and one that goes right to the heart of what we – your elected officials and your tribal employees – work toward every day.

Most Chickasaws probably don't know our tribal vision: "To be a Nation of successful and united people with a strong cultural identity."

The vision statement has a bit different focus. Our fundamental mission is to make Chickasaw lives better. Our vision for the future is Chickasaws achieving success in their lives, and empowering Chickasaws to grab hold of the powerful bond that unites us. We want all Chickasaws to understand the tremendous history of our tribal culture.

GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY

Governor, the Chickasaw Nation

We are unique. Our Chickasaw culture is built on a history of supporting each other and overcoming tremendous obstacles. Our vision is for all Chickasaws to understand, to "feel" that bond, completely.

We have developed a strategic plan for the future. Those of you in business or corporate environments have no doubt participated in strategic plans. These plans attempt to identify real needs, areas for improvement and opportunities for future success.

Our tribal strategic plan is based both on our mission statement and our vision for the future.

We have produced a number of objectives we would like to accomplish over the next five to 10 years. Of course, we want to achieve our objectives as quickly as possible, which means better service to citizens. We also realize big ideas can take time to completely mature and have the desired effect. These ideas require the effort of all of us who serve you in office and on the tribal staff.

All the strategic objectives we have formulated together are important. Each speaks to issues that, we believe, are imperative to properly serving our tribal mission statement and vision.

As an example, one of our objectives is to "increase opportunities to participate in all forms of cultural expression." This is obviously a very important element, and one that can be nurtured and developed for many years.

Our desire is to provide more opportunities for Chickasaws to participate in cultural activities, and to bring down any walls that may hinder expressions of cultural pride.

Key portions of this objective include creating culturally inspired wellness efforts. The care of our bodies is obviously very important. We also want to incorporate a cultural awareness of the importance of our mental and spiritual health. Chickasaws with a deep understanding of their cultural heritage find this a natural thing. It is important more Chickasaws are exposed to this thinking and provided the proper cultural background.

Increasing cultural expression also includes expanded opportunities to learn and use our language. We have many speakers, and we are seeing more all the time. It is important we grow on that base and that we engage our people in their language. Not only is it rewarding, it's fun!

There are many other examples of service to the mission and vision.

We want to increase knowledge of our Chickasaw customs; improve our communications with citizens; promote government participation and citizen involvement; improve access to services, and much more.

Each of these pieces of the puzzle takes time, energy and a willingness to "stick with it." I plan to help see these efforts through and help enhance the quality of Chickasaw lives, and build strong cultural identity among all our people. For those of us who serve you at the tribe, these are the right things to do.

We will continue this series regarding our tribal direction with more discussion of Chickasaw Nation priorities and objectives for the future.

Chickasaw students learn business strategies

DURANT, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation and Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU) hosted the 2009 Entrepreneurship Academy June 1-5 on the SOSU campus in Durant.

Seventeen students from Oklahoma and Texas participated in the academy. Subjects included business strategies, business operation basics, team development, small business opportunities and marketing strategies for future business plans.

"By attending Entrepreneurship Academy, students have the opportunity to learn business strategies and marketing skills used to develop and manage a successful business," said Gov. Bill Anoatubby. "It is great to see young students interested in preparing for future entrepreneurial career choices."

During the academy, the students divided into teams and participated in a Youth Market. At the Youth Market, students created a table-top business and used business strategies to market and sell snack products. Each team competed to sell the most by negotiating with customers to create the best deals.

Danielle Taylor, Chasity Bruner and Kori Wiegmann give their sales pitch to Robert Pickens during the Entrepreneurship Academy Youth Market June 3, at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center in Ada.

"The academy is a neat experience," said Kingston (OK) High School junior Chasity Bruner. "I have learned more about budgeting money and the responsibilities of managing a business."

The Entrepreneurship Academy is a partnership between SOSU's John Massey School of Business and the Chickasaw Nation. The summer academy is for Chickasaw high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who have strong business interests and want to achieve academic excellence. The academy is hosted on the SOSU campus. Students stay at the Chickasaw Nation Children's Village in Kingston.

Upon completion of the academy, students graduate with a better understanding of business planning and the tools necessary to write future business plans.

For more information about the Entrepreneurship Academy, contact Callie Roebuck at (580) 421-7711 or visit www.chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.

K9 officer enjoys professionalism of Lighthorse Police operation

Ada native AshLee Griffin always looks forward to coming to work as an administrative assistant at Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police, because she loves her job.

The family-friendly atmosphere is one reason she accepted the position soon after graduating from East Central University with a degree in Human Resources Counseling.

"Lighthorse is so family-oriented, everyone values family time," she said.

The center of Griffin's life is her two and one-half year-old son, Beau, and her husband Jared. The family lives outside of Stratford.

Some of her job duties at Lighthorse are bookkeeping and serving as administrative assistant for Major George "Cate" Jesse.

Prior to her position at Lighthorse Police, Griffin worked at the 22nd Judicial District CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) CARE Cottage Child Advocacy Center, where she assisted children who had been victims of crime. She continues to volunteer her time whenever she can.

AshLee Griffin

The 26-year-old also enjoys traveling when she is away from work and likes to participate in a variety of outdoor activities, such as snorkeling.

Her goals include raising a family and obtaining a master's degree in psychology. She would also like to keep helping young crime victims.

A fan of "true crime" novels, Griffin would like to work as a criminal profiler someday.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw artists shine in Red Earth competition

Margaret Roach Wheeler with her garment "Mississippian-Squirrel Clan." The submission earned the President's Award at the 2009 Red Earth Festival Art Competition. Mike McKee

OKLAHOMA CITY - Several Chickasaw artists were recognized at the art and dance competitions conducted at the 24rd Annual Red Earth Festival. The festival was June 4-7, 2009 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

Margaret Roach Wheeler, Chickasaw textile artist, received the Red Earth President's Award with her piece entitled "The Mississippian-Squirrel Clan," a pre-European-contact Chickasaw outfit.

Daniel Worcester, Chickasaw bladesmith, won first place in the Cultural Items/Utilitarian division with his Blue Knife.

Six young Chickasaw artists also took several honors in the James H. and Madalynne Norick Foundation Youth Art Competition.

In the Division I (ages 9-12), Michela Milligan won first place in the jewelry category and Anevay Greenwood won third in the Sculpture category.

Division II (ages 13-15) winners were Me-Way-Seh Greenwood, who took first in Beadwoork, Mercedes Milligan, who won first in Jewelry and Micah Hart, who received third place in the Painting/Drawing/Graphics category.

Skylar Nucosee won first in the Division III (ages 16-18) Beading competition, making him the fifth consecutive Chickasaw to take the top spot in this category.

Skylar also received second place in the Junior Boy's Grass Dance competition.

Wheeler, Worcester and the young Chickasaw artists were among several Chickasaw citizens to enter in the highly competitive contest.

This year, the Red Earth organization had more than 220 artists who submitted entries.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

Skylar Nucosee with his award-winning beadwork. Skylar took first place in the Red Earth Festival Division III Beading category.

Language club kids learn some fishing; bowling set for July

Logan Jarrett shows off his big catch during the Chipota Chikashshanompoli language club's monthly meeting.

"Bowling Fun Day" is the theme for the July meeting of The Chickasaw Nation Chipota Chikashshanompoli (Children Speaking Chickasaw) language club.

The meeting will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, July 18 at the Lazer Zone in Ada, Okla. Participants will learn about Chickasaw words related to bowling as well as words related to numbers and counting.

Chipota Chikashshanompoli meetings focus on the importance of using the Chickasaw language in daily life.

One Saturday each month the club meets to learn Chickasaw language and embark on a fun adventure that will incorporate newly introduced Chickasaw words.

Club meetings are open to all children ages three to 12 who are interested in learning the Chickasaw language.

To join the language club or to inquire about upcoming meetings, contact Teresa McDonald at (580) 272-5310, teresa.mcdonald@chickasaw.net or visit www.chickasaw.net/cca.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

Chipota Chikashshanompoli participant Tyla Carpenter baits her hook on the club's Fishing Fun Day June 20.

Tishomingo monument dedicated in homelands

Chickasaws lead celebration of famed chief's life

TISHOMINGO, Miss. - For several Chickasaw citizens, June 6, 2009 was a day not only to honor legendary Chief Tishomingo, but also a chance to come home.

Just outside of Tupelo, Mississippi in the original Chickasaw homelands, a monument was erected and dedicated to mark the land where Tishomingo once lived.

"Chief Tishomingo symbolizes all of the best characteristics of what it means to be Chickasaw, said Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham, Administrator of the Chickasaw Nation Division of History and Culture.

"It was thought that the land owned by Tishomingo had been lost to history, but Mitch Caver worked very hard to uncover that history."

Caver, a local man fascinated by the life of Tishomingo, began searching for the home site of Tishomingo several years ago. The research eventually led him to a piece of land now owned by Lawrence Edwards.

"When I visited Mr. Edwards' farm, he too had heard the story that he was living on land once owned by Tishomingo," Caver said.

Not wanting to pinpoint the exact location based solely on word-of-mouth accounts, Caver set out to prove that the land was indeed where Tishomingo lived.

"Many of the deeds granted in Tishomingo County before the 1880s had been burned up in a fire," he said. "After hearing that, I was afraid I'd never find hard evidence that Tishomingo had lived where all of the stories suggested."

Upon a suggestion from tribal historian Richard Green, Caver began to search the deed records of Pontotoc County, Mississippi as well.

"I went to the Chancery Clerk's office and found their oldest book," he said. "After looking at page after page of Indian land transfers, I find the name of Tishomingo there with his 'X' when he deeded his land away April 15, 1836."

During the dedication, the Chickasaw Dance Troupe performed and traditional hymns were sung in the Chickasaw language.

"This ceremony was meaningful for me," said Caver, "but I'm very grateful that the Chickasaw citizens were able to return to their homeland."

After the dedication, participants continued the celebration at Cedarscape, the preservation area that was once the site of a Chickasaw village.

For Ann Fink, Chickasaw citizen and manager of the Chickasaw Council House Museum, the trip was "profound."

"When I visit this area," she said, "I feel like I'm standing in the footprints of my ancestors. I feel at home."

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Nation Division of History and Culture Administrator Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham and Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel with the newly-erected monument marking the home site of Chickasaw Chief Tishomingo. They joined dozens of Chickasaw citizens and community members on June 6, 2009 to unveil and dedicate the monument outside of Tupelo, Miss.

Tribe hosts cultural workshops

Teachers learn to incorporate Native-themed projects in class

The Arts in Education Department of the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities hosted two Art Integration and American Indian Cultural Teacher Workshops June 15 in Ada and June 17 in Oklahoma City.

"Art can be used to motivate students to learn any subject," said Arts in Education director Laura Stewart. "It's great when the projects can be Native American-themed."

Several area teachers learned about how to bring Native American culture, particularly Chickasaw culture, into the classroom while working with any amount of funding.

Participants were also prepared with curriculum that will be used in upcoming Chickasaw Nation department of Arts in Education's Mini-Festivals.

Through hands-on art projects, the students can obtain cultural understanding and make connections with the past. The make and take projects included traditional gorgets, corn husk dolls and hide drawings.

Carmen Clay, a high school teacher at Casady School in Oklahoma City, said the methods she learned would be perfect for her service learning students.

"These projects will be great for my students to learn," she said. "They can then share them with residents at a nursing home or at an after-school program."

Chickasaw storyteller Lorie Robbins and Children's Choir director Philip Berryhill were also on hand to demonstrate the various art forms that can be used in education.

For more information on the workshops or the Mini-Festivals, contact Arts in Education at (580) 272-5520.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

History, language course at ECU, Murray State

Deadline for enrollment in the Fall 2009 Chickasaw Then and Now Clemente I Humanities Study course is Monday, August 10.

The college-level course is worth three credit hours and will be offered at East Central University in Ada, Okla., and at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Okla.

Dates for the course at East Central University are August 20 through December 3. The class will be conducted each Thursday night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:05 p.m.

The Murray State College course will be from 6 p.m. to 8:40 p.m. on Monday nights, August 17 through December 10.

Sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities, the course will focus on the history, language and culture of the Chickasaw people.

Special speakers will be on hand to discuss various facets of Chickasaw culture. These can include Chickasaw philosophy, art, literature, poetry, music and government.

Participants in the Clemente I course will have the opportunity to study these topics in depth and contrast them with the same components of western civilizations.

Chickasaw citizens may be eligible for tuition scholarships offered exclusively for the Clemente courses through the Division of Arts and Humanities.

For more information, contact Laura Clark at laura.clark@chickasaw.net or call (580) 272-5520.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

Enjoy the Summer Arts Academy Showcases

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation Department of Art in Education invites all citizens, parents and community members to the annual Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy (CSAA) Showcases. The showcase presentations are 6 p.m. Thursday, July 30 and Friday, July 31 at the Dorothy Summers Theater on the campus of East Central University in Ada.

Performances by the Fine Arts Rotation will take place on Thursday and the students who "major" in specific areas will perform on Friday.

Both performances are free and open to the public.

A finale to the intensive two-week academy, the showcases feature all the progress made by the students during the formal training in visual arts, acting, writing, video production, music and dance.

Now in its fifth year, CSAA offers a unique opportunity for Oklahoma students, ages 8 to 19, to evaluate and develop their creative potential.

A gallery walk-through and reception will begin at 5 p.m. each night. Doors to the Dorothy Summers Theater will open at 5:45 for the performance art showcases.

For more information, call Debra Bailey at (580) 272-5520.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

Begin planning now for Annual Festival

LINDA BRIGGS

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hi, Everybody!

It is a sincere hope that you are managing to "manage" the weather in your area. Here in the Nation – and lots of citizens will verify! – We could become toast it has suddenly become so hot! I imagine we'll make it, though, and you do the same!

Remember – It is time to start planning for Annual Festival. Such an awesome event! And I understand that while the Cultural Center at Sulphur is not a completion stage there will be some tours of the parts that are ready. A for sure "don't want to miss" for all of us!

The hospital got held up just a bit off its schedule because of all the horrendous rain (hard to imagine today as the temperature is 102-degrees) but things are really moving along out there and it is enormous. I understand that it is one-half mile from one end to the other! Maybe we'll have separate entrances for different causes and maybe we won't have to do that much walking!

I had a birthday recently and one of my "wise" brothers told me I was not over the hill yet – just standing where I could see both sides. I hadn't heard that before so I laugh every time I think of it. (He's just a little bit behind me!). Family is nice and sharing laughs is a big part of ours.

We are preparing for our family reunion on the 4th of July weekend at our family park, the Minnie Liddell Park, and all of us are really looking forward to it. We are SO fortunate to have the park and over the years so many improvements have been made. It is really nice and when all 100+ (sometimes as many as 200) show up it gets lively with all the different games and conversations gong on. Plus somewhere in the family we got a dose of really good cooks! It is not dieting time!

A number of us got to see a preview of the movie "Pearl" about our own beloved Pearl Scott and when you have the opportunity – and you will! – it is a must see. Our own Multi-Media Division produced the movie and it is really first class quality. A wonderful movie about the legends in our own lifetimes. See it when you have the chance!

Along with the summer heat the election is heating as candidates work very hard to get their messages sent out. Pay close attention and please VOTE! It is so important to make your voice heard.

I will close with wishing you a good summer and hoping many, many of you make it to Annual Festival! Take care of yourselves and God Bless each of you.

Citizens At-Large Help Number

For information on services or help with questions, call toll-free 1-866-466-1481.

Budget 'bottom line' - be straightforward

HOLLY EASTERLING

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

As Chickasaw citizens, we have a unique opportunity each year to participate in our tribe's budgeting process. An annual public budget hearing is held in the month of June to give citizens a view of the governmental budget for our next fiscal year (which begins October 1). This year's public hearing was held on June 25 at the David Stout Building in Ada. Last year it was held in Sulphur, Oklahoma. And this same presentation is also located on our website at www.Chickasaw.net for those of you too far away or who were unable to attend.

As you know from your home finances, budgeting is a very important element. We must understand what our monthly income and expenses are. If we pay little attention to our expenses, we all know what can happen!

Budgeting for the Chickasaw Nation is more complex than a home budget, but the fundamentals are the same. It is important for us to properly and conservatively project our revenue, then consider what projects and other important elements we can safely fund.

For Fiscal Year 2010, the tribal budget for legislative action totals $112,729,000. Your legislature has already received reports from the various tribal administrators regarding upcoming costs as we continue to digest and understand the elements of the new governmental budget. As legislators we have the opportunity to ask any questions and dig into the details of the budget requests. Some of these questions may even come from you.

As the chairman of the legislative Finance Committee, it is my job to oversee the hearing and be sure information is shared, and that it is presented in an understandable manner.

I have served as Finance Committee chairman for several years, and my professional training is as a certified public accountant. Budgeting and cash flow management has been an area of expertise during my 20+ year career in accounting. That helps me in my job on the legislature.

However, it is also very important for me to be sensitive to the fact that not everyone is completely familiar with financial jargon and the ins and outs of our tribe's budget and the budgeting process. My job is to help make the budget presentation straightforward and understandable. It is important that citizens are informed about our tribal budget and have an opportunity to ask questions.

I very much appreciate your interest in the tribal budgeting process, and I look forward to hearing from you with any questions you may have.

As always, thank you for all your support. It is an honor and privilege to serve you.

Make time to attend next year's picnic

BETH ALEXANDER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chinchokma,

This time of year is always busy. The last weekend in May the Chickasaw West group had a picnic and meeting in Santee, California. Approximately 60 citizens came from near and far for the event. I did cook the hamburgers and hotdogs again this year and I do believe my grilling skills are improving! Even though, most of us there arrived as strangers we left as friends. If you live anywhere near the Santee area, get ready for next year's picnic! We had people drive over 2 hours to be there. A big thank you goes out to Sharon Tandy and her crew of two, for many years and many hours put in to make this annual picnic special.

Two weeks later the Chickasaw Community Council of Albuquerque, New Mexico held their first covered dish, meeting. Janet Rubin from the Culture Preservation Department shared about the 50 year time capsule. She encouraged the council attendees to participate in the project by gathering information about their families. Once again, I met several Chickasaw citizens. Recent college graduates, young Chickasaws and retirees all eager to learn more about their tribe and the services available. We even had a gentleman fly down from Denver, Colorado to be apart of the meeting. The council was well attended and is already making plans for their next meeting. So, if you live anywhere near this area, come join in. Contact Vadare Cornelison (505) 980-5925.

The month of June and July, finds the Chickasaw Nation in a season of elections for Legislators. I encourage all Chickasaws to participate in Tribal affairs. Take the time and effort to be a part of your government process, by voting.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Matthew 5:14

Beth Alexander
P.O.Box 246
Achille,OK 74720
(580) 283-3409
Bethalexander22@hotmail.com

Ada Senior Citizens Gift Shop

1005 Chamber Loop, Ada, OK
(580) 436-1007

SW jewelry, dream catchers, caps and lots of Chickasaw items. Shop the Ada Senior Citizens Gift Shop for all your gift giving items!

Medical center, clinic growing at fast pace

MARY JO GREEN

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! It's hot in Ada as Summer has settled in. Thank goodness we received a lot of rain recently. The construction crew on the new hospital is making up for time lost due to weather and the construction is now 66.7% complete.

The Health Care Committee met with new Health Administrator Dr. Judy Goforth Parker and out going Administrator Bill Lance. It was Dr. Parker's first meeting with us as Administrator and Mr. Lance's last meeting with us as Health Administrator. They gave us good news, of course.

I reported last month that the Choctaw Nation will be remodeling the Durant Clinic. The clinic will gain an additional 1,300 square feet for exam rooms. The Durant Clinic serves all Native Americans in the Durant area. The health care team met with the architect for the Ardmore Clinic remodel. Ardmore Clinic is seeing many more patients than was expected so it needs to be larger. The plan is to work on weekends and evenings so the clinics do not have to close during business hours. Please bear with us while we complete the remodels.

At Carl Albert Hospital, Dr. Earnest Nelson began working in the Dental Clinic on May 26. Dr. Richard Orr is a psychiatrist working under a 6-month contract with options for renewal. Dr. Jose Alvarez is an ear/nose/throat specialist working 2 days a month. Dr. Philip Hartgraves is a pediatric dentist working 2 days a month. Dr. Jerry Morgan will be full time at the Family Practice Clinic beginning June 29. Dr. Mauri Thomas will be a full time dentist in Tishomingo starting on July 13. Welcome aboard to all the new doctors and dentists!

Connie Barker, Legislator for Seat 2 Pickens District, has been appointed to replace Dr. Parker on the Healthcare State Council. We know that Connie will continue the excellent work begun by Dr. Parker. The new mission statement for the Health System is "To protect, preserve and enhance health care for all Indian people."

The following are statistics: for the month of May, 2009, there were 227 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 20,452. May Emergency Room visits were 1,227. May saw 231 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,478 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,962 patients in May. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,286 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,137. The Durant Clinic saw 3,150 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,577 in May.

I would love to hear from you. Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people. Thank you.

Our tradition of education is working

WANDA BLACKWOOD TIPPIT SCOTT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

The Chickasaw Nation has consistently viewed education as one of its top priorities. This element of our tribe goes back many generations.

When our tribe was removed from its homelands in the 1830s, it was thrust into a new and foreign land that offered many challenges. We were, at first, consolidated with the Choctaw Nation, which had been removed before us. However, that relatively brief union had its own challenges, and the Chickasaw Nation had soon drafted its own constitution, identified and purchased its own land mass and re-established its tribal government.

With the ratification of our constitution in 1856, the offices of government were also established. A Governor was to be elected by the people as the chief executive of the tribe. The tribal council which, with the approval of the constitution of 1983 became the legislature, was also elected by the people.

A very interesting note is that the other original elected office established with the 1856 constitution was the Superintendent of Chickasaw Education.

Our tribe thought so highly of education, it constitutionally established an office for an official who would oversee the education of our population.

I think that really says it all!

We know from history that many Chickasaw boys and young men attended several 19th Century institutions dedicated to their classic educations, or to train them in a trade.

We also know Chickasaw girls and young women were taught the classics, along with etiquette and other "finishing" courses, at institutions including Bloomfield Academy.

Today, our young people are entering so many different institutions of higher learning. Just looking over the graduation announcements and other news, we have Chickasaws achieving exceptional levels of scholarship across the country.

Chickasaws today are studying at Yale, Harvard and Dartmouth. They are excelling at Stanford and the University of California-Berkley. And they are attending many of the fine state public universities.

I believe we have our strong tradition of educational support of our students to, in large part, thank for our current tribal excellence. We are achieving great things in business, in outreach and in the many programs and services so important to our people.

It has been my distinct privilege to serve as Chairman of our legislative Education Committee, and to oversee the tremendous expansion in our grants, scholarships and other programs that lead directly to our students' achievement.

We are honoring our tribal history as we continue to strengthen our fundamental core of educated, successful Chickasaws.

Thanks to you and your support of our education programs, our students are reaching the stars!

Our young people are making a difference

DAVID WOERZ

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

In the grand scheme of things, a few blankets, heaters and assorted supplies may not amount to much.

But when you are living through a winter in the northern Plains of this country, these items often represent the most precious of things.

I was blessed in December of last year to be included with a group of people, mostly young Chickasaws, who saw a real need and worked hard to help.

The youth are affiliated with the Ardmore Indian Baptist Church. It's a small church on a corner lot in an older section of Ardmore. The pastor, Stephen Wall, oversees a flock of very active Indian worshipers.

Also, it turned out, the flock includes a number of young and active Chickasaws who make things happen.

In the fall of last year, these young people were in the office of Ardmore High School Indian Education director Deana Craighead. Ms. Craighead is also the advisor to the high school Native American group, Dream Catchers. An email came in that detailed the suffering of Lakota Sioux families living on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations in South Dakota. An ice storm had hit and electricity was out. Children were suffering.

For this group of young Chickasaws, it was a call to action.

The boys and girls, young men and women, began contacting media outlets to tell the story in the Ardmore area. They established a program to collect important items that would keep Lakota children warm.

They collected blankets, sleeping bags, gloves and warm clothing. Ladies from the church made blankets and scarves for the young people to take to the reservations. Others gave money, which was exchanged for more important items to donate.

The group also came up with 12 cast iron stoves and 40 electric heaters.

Finally, in December, I was asked to drive one of the trucks up to South Dakota. We took two big trucks, each heavily laden with the things our Lakota friends would need.

When we arrived at our dropping off points, we came face-to-face with some of the most desolate conditions in our country. Most of the homes are not adequately prepared to shelter a family in such harsh conditions. The people had very little, and it appeared there was little in way of relief on the way.

But the Lakota people, particularly the children, were so incredibly happy and thankful. These things would make lives so much better. Best of all, I think, is that they could see some hope.

I must take time to thank the Lord for inspiring the hearts of the young Chickasaws who acted. They acted in faith, and they acted with sincerity. They heard a faint cry for help, and they answered.

This experience made me so proud of our young Chickasaw generation. I had the great privilege of seeing this relief program grow from nothing, to something that has made a real difference in lives.

‘Pearl’ a featured movie at independent film festival

OKLAHOMA CITY - “Pearl,” a movie produced by the Chickasaw Nation and Media 13, opened Oklahoma City’s ninth annual deadCENTER Film Festival with a sold-out house Thursday, June 11.

The film is a biopic of Chickasaw aviatrix Eula “Pearl” Carter Scott and follows her through childhood and teen years as she becomes the youngest licensed pilot in America.

More than 200 people attended the screening, shown at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art’s Noble Theater. Among them were several of the movie’s actors and crew members.

For Dale Whisman, who portrayed “Cole the Geezer,” this was the first opportunity to see “Pearl” in its entirety.

“I’m so pleased with the way it all came together,” he said. “There was no way that I could’ve imagined how mind-blowing the cinematography was going to end up.”

Festival moviegoer Brenda Barry, of Moore, particularly enjoyed the family values portrayed in the film.

“Pearl didn’t quit,” she said. “You could see that all of her determination and resilience came straight from her mother and father.”

Mrs. Barry’s husband, Robert, was impressed with the production value of “Pearl.”

“It was more than I could’ve expected,” he said. “I can only imagine what the Chickasaw Nation will do next.”

Founded in 2001, the deadCENTER Film Festival promotes independent film arts and is designed to inspire growth in the Oklahoma film industry.

“Pearl” was shot primarily in Oklahoma and about 60 percent of the cast is local, of which several are Chickasaw citizens.

Visit www.pearlthemovie.net for up-to-date information on “Pearl,” the cast and crew and future showings.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

A generous spirit generates a collective tribal strength

BY CHARLES BLACKWELL | CHICKASAW NATION AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

Life is full of advantages and opportunities; some we recognize and put to good use and some we don’t.

Having just spent a week in Ada and then returning to my office on Capitol Hill, I was reminded what an advantage I have, as your Ambassador, to have one foot in two very wonderful and different worlds. So, I wish to share with you my thoughts and observations inspired by my trip with you. It was good from my very first meeting to my very last BBQ rib! Another advantage I’ve managed to achieve is that of attaining a bit of elder status. Some days, though, especially when my football knees ache, it feels like more than just a bit; therefore, my pace was more measured.

It’s true that with age comes the advantage for a vision based on experience, time and changes coupled with the guiding values of strength, courage, wisdom and generosity. Having been taught from early on by three generations of brown hands and hearts that one must apply each of these guides to one’s own self spiritually, mentally, socially and physically in order to maximize your own individual advantages, I try to stick to these basics.

As we celebrate this season when we extol freedom, liberty and national values, I do believe the greatest of these four basic life guides is generosity. I guess that’s because, in great measure, true generosity is an expression of unconditional love. Seems to me that sharing the bounties of your heart, head and pocket and country is good. It can be a hug, a smile, a meal, silent listening to or a self deprecating moment of necessary honesty. Our wisdom grows every day as we learn more.

As surely as strength and courage are ever-present necessities in our daily lives, so is the search for wisdom and genuine expressions of generosity. Wisdom generally follows hard work, study, calculated listening and learning from your mistakes. If, then, we are generous with our individual and collective tribal strength, courage and wisdom we can only make ourselves, our People and our America better with truth, trust and honor.

Here in Washington, it’s my hope and expectation that President Obama, his administration, the members of Congress and the hundreds of thousands of others who live and work here in the shadow of the Capitol, will lead America to a greater appreciation and practice of our tribal community values. I especially pray the Indian People he has chosen to serve us will use these four pillars to guide themselves.

You know what else helps? A genuine self-deprecating sense of humor. Laugh at yourself first. Believe me, there are some times I do things that give me plenty to laugh at. Try not to laugh at others but with them. During my many years here, I’ve seen many Presidents, Congressmen, Senators, lobbyists, politicians, scalawags and scam artists come and go. The good ones always have a genuine smile and sincere self-deprecating ability to laugh at themselves and with others.

While here in Washington, I’ve seen 20 or so Julys come and go, and with the Governor’s blessing, the Legislature’s consent and our Creator’s grace, I plan on using my courage, my strengths, my accumulated wisdom bound together with thankful acts of generosity to be a proud American, a strong Chickasaw and a good Ambassador to the United States of America for you.

Happy birthday, America! Happy everyday, Chickasaw Nation!

P.S. Just in case some of you think I’m beginning to sound like an old line Methodist preacher, be assured that I’m keeping up enough of my bad-boy habits to use so when the time comes to bargain with Saint Peter, I’ll have some baggage to throw overboard.

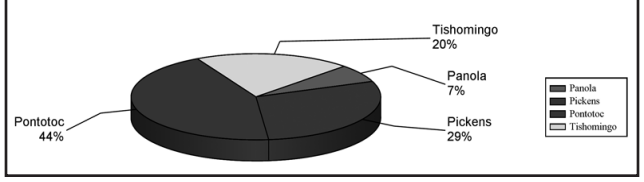
Help us update our military list!

The Chickasaw Nation is updating the military database for those on active duty and stationed away from home.

If you know of a Chickasaw in the service whom you would like to add to the list or update their address, please contact Joy Barrick in the public affairs department at (580) 310-6451 or email joy.barrick@chickasaw.net.

Count of Voters by District

Panola	1,628	Pontotoc	10,754
Pickens	7,046	Tishomingo	4,865
			24,293



Court Advocate services now available for tribal citizens

Court Advocate Services are now available in Ardmore, Ada, and Purcell to assist Native Americans with their legal problems.

To make an appointment call 1-800-479-1459.

This is a service provided by the tribal court system.

Authors of history, culture recognized

Nominations sought for Heritage Preservation Awards

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2009 Chickasaw Nation Heritage Preservation Awards *for authors documenting Chickasaw history and culture*.

Authors of previously *unpublished* doctoral dissertations, master's theses, articles, and book manuscripts dealing with some aspect of Chickasaw heritage are eligible for the awards.

The following awards are being offered:

Best Unpublished Article Prize: Publication in the CHS Journal and Lecture at the Chickasaw Cultural Center and $1,000 Research Stipend

Best M.A. Thesis Prize: Visiting Scholar Fellowship and Lecture at the Chickasaw Cultural Center and $2,000 Research Stipend

Best Ph.D. Dissertation Prize: Visiting Scholar Fellowship and Lecture at the Chickasaw Cultural Center and $2,000 Research Stipend

Best Unpublished Manuscript Prize: The Holisso Award—

Publication by the Chickasaw Press and Lecture at the Chickasaw Cultural Center and $2,000 Research Stipend

"This awards program is designed to encourage and inspire authors to expand the scope of knowledge of our tribe's history, heritage and culture," said Gov. Bill Anoatubby.

The awards will be presented to winners during the Chickasaw Annual Meeting and Festival Arts and Culture Awards Ceremony.

To be eligible for consideration, works in each category must deal specifically with some aspect of Chickasaw history and culture. Moreover, the works must be documented, either through the use of footnotes, endnotes or a listing of sources.

Nominations must include two copies of the book manuscript, dissertation, thesis, or unpublished article being nominated.

Entries should be submitted to Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham, Administrator of Division of History and Culture, 520 East Arlington, Ada, Okla. 74820

Deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, September 4th.

For information, call (580) 436-7265.

Mark your calendars!

The 49th Annual Meeting of the Chickasaw Nation and the 21st Annual Chickasaw Festival are set for September 26 through October 3. Many of the events will be in Tishomingo, the historic capitol of the Chickasaw Nation. Events are also scheduled in Ada, the Cultural Center in Sulphur, and throughout the Chickasaw Nation.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Festival office at (580) 371-2040 or 1 (800) 593-3356.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Commercial net income continues strong performance

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and the tribe's BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Chickasaw Enterprises. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of the tribal operation, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Businesses revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes, sales revenue at convenience, travel plazas and tobacco stores, rent and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, *Chickasaw Times* and Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices. Expenditure for education includes education scholarship as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include senior citizens sites, eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending May 31, 2009

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled $108.8 million year-to-date. Expenditures were $5.3 million for the month and $47.1 million year-to-date. There has been a total, beginning in fiscal year 2004, of $115.0 million transferred from the businesses that were reserved for capital projects.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes for May totaled $78 million and $568 million year-to-date. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was $27 million for the month and $190 million year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was $61.4 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At May 31, 2009, the tribal government funds had $127 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, $16.4 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had $171 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of May 31, 2009, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of $827 million compared to $755 million at January 31, 2009 or an increase of $72 million.

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Eight Months Ended May 31, 2009

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	$	7,566,101	568,375,741	575,941,842
Transfers from businesses to tribal government		101,262,668	(101,262,668)	0
Total funds available		108,828,769	467,113,073	575,941,842
Expenditures				
General government		5,977,023		5,977,023
Legislature		1,108,362		1,108,362
Judiciary		540,228		540,228
Education		8,458,459		8,458,459
Heritage Preservation		3,457,168		3,457,168
Health		9,737,714		9,737,714
Youth and Family Services		4,628,785		4,628,785
Nutrition Programs		2,482,020		2,482,020
Regulatory		3,561,524		3,561,524
Assistance Programs		7,217,696		7,217,696
Transfer to Loan Program		-		-
Gaming expense			311,079,092	311,079,092
Other businesses' expense			94,594,685	94,594,685
Total expenditures		47,168,979	405,673,777	452,842,756
Increase in net assets		61,659,790	61,439,296	123,099,086
Beginning net assets		291,985,959	412,247,737	704,233,696
Ending net assets	$	353,645,749	473,687,033	827,332,783

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Net Assets
May 31, 2009

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	$	127,094,576	171,075,525	298,170,101
Receivables		475,808	35,789,621	36,265,429
Inventory			5,338,214	5,338,214
Prepaid expenses			10,551,384	10,551,384
Other Assets			45,846,390	45,846,390
Fixed assets		226,356,883	387,291,872	613,648,755
Less payables		(281,518)	(182,205,972)	(182,487,490)
Net Assets	$	353,645,749	473,687,033	827,332,783

You can make a difference

Chickasaw Foster Care and Adoption seeking new families

The Chickasaw Nation Foster Care and Adoption Program is reaching out to find foster care families in Oklahoma and around the country to help make a difference in the lives of Native American children.

"Please consider opening your heart and your home by becoming a Chickasaw Nation Tribal Resource Family and foster a child," said Jeanie Anderson, Chickasaw Nation Manager of Foster Care and Adoption. "Chickasaw children are waiting for families to offer them a chance for a stable home on both permanent and temporary basis."

Over 200 Chickasaw children are currently in tribal, state and out-of-state custody. With the help of additional tribal resource families, the foster care program can provide a safe and happy home for these children.

Many of these children and teens will safely reunite with their parents, be cared for by relative, or be adopted by loving families. But others are less fortunate. Every year, older youth "age out" of foster care and are left to face life's challenges.

"The Foster Care and Adoption program allows families the opportunity to make a real difference in a Chickasaw child's life," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "When situations out of a child's control arise, forcing them to be removed from their families, foster care families are needed to fill the void in their lives."

The Foster Care and Adoption program currently has children ranging from newborns to 17 years old for placement in permanent adoptive homes, short term foster homes, emergency placement, and respite care families.

No matter their age, the program stresses that all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives.

"Currently there are 30 tribal resources families providing foster care needed for children in tribal custody and the program is truly grateful and appreciates their continued commitment, but more families are greatly needed," said Ms. Anderson.

You can be a tribal resource family to children just like these.

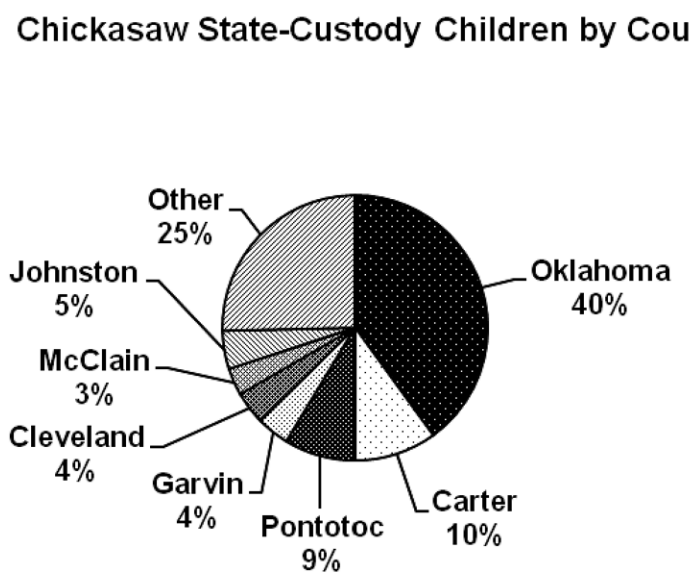


Chart represents the percentage of the 200 plus children in custody in each county.

There are 81 cases of Chickasaw children in the custody of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. The Foster Care and Adoption Program needs tribal homes to provide care when a relative or kinship placement is not available.

In the state of Oklahoma, on a month-by-month basis, more than 1,800 Native American children required out-of-home placement according to Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Native children removed to non-native homes has statistically shown a high likelihood of creating identity crisis, loss of culture and emotional distress.

Tribal homes are needed within the Chickasaw Nation service area as well as throughout the state and around the country. The Chickasaw Nation especially needs homes in Oklahoma County and Carter County.

Currently there are only two tribal resource family and over 65(40 percent of children in custody) Chickasaw children in tribal or state custody residing in Oklahoma County.

"As a foster parent, I have had 19 children residing with my family from as little as two weeks to three years, with every experience being equally rewarding," 2009 Foster Care Parent of the Year Marilyn Coltz said. "With each child you build a special bond making them part of your family and an impact on their lives and your own."

Financial assistance is available to help with the room and board of a foster child. Financial assistance comes in the form of reimbursement and is specific to age, care level and number of children placed in a home.

For more information or to become a foster parent contact the Chickasaw Nation Foster Care and Adoption Program at (580) 272-5550 or visit their offices located at 231 Seabrook Road in Ada, Okla. in the Youth and Family services building.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jeremy Oliver, tribal media relations.

Become a Foster Care Family today!

The Chickasaw Nation Foster Care program is always looking for appropriate families for children. An applicant can expect a six-month wait to find out if he/she qualifies and must provide the following documentation:

Income verification
Social Security cards
CDIB
Auto/home insurance verifications
Physician's health statement
Copies of vaccination records for pets
Five references
Valid driver's license
Copy of marriage certificate

To become a foster care or adoptive home with the Chickasaw Nation, a prospective family must:

Complete the initial application forms and criminal background forms and submit to the Foster Care/Adoption Manager for processing.

Submit to a Child Welfare Registry check on the family.

Complete PRIDE training.

Pass an intensive home study

Maintain a home which meets the physical standards as listed in Tribal Foster Care/Adoption Home Standards.

Be at least 21 years of age

Great day for moms, dads, kids together

Chepota Himmita 'Annual Day in the Park'

Over 50 parents and children of Chepota Himmita celebrated the year by promoting prevention of child abuse and neglect, with an "Annual Day in the Park," June 23, at Wintersmith Park, in Ada, Okla.

Many mothers and fathers showed up with their children at the event to socialize with others, play on the swings, and enjoy hot dogs on the grill. After eating hot dogs, there was a water balloon toss for just the children, and then for the parents who were reluctant to get wet.

Ginger Jones, organizer of the event, was pleased with the turnout.

"We got a few of the dads to come," Jones said. "We had quite a few people show up this year."

In 2008, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services reported over 11,700 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in the state of Oklahoma. National statistics show that a child abuse report is made every 10 seconds in the U.S.

"There is way too much child abuse and neglect in the world today," Jones said. "So we invite everyone with a child six and under to join Chepota Himmita."

Chepota Himmita is a voluntary program, at no cost, that seeks to provide community-based resources and support for Native American families.

The program provides opportunities to learn about child health/development, use of community resources, parenting skills, support groups, home visitation by support workers, nutrition, family budgeting and more.

Enrollment in the Chepota Himmita program is for women 28 weeks pregnant and up to 12 months after birth, who are members of Native American families living in Pontotoc County, Oklahoma. Once enrolled, children can participate through age six.

For more information and for details on enrollment and future Chepota Himmita events, please call (580) 272-5550 or visit the Chickasaw Nation Youth and Family Services at 231 Seabrook Road in Ada.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jeremy Oliver, tribal media relations and Forrest Cheadle, summer youth.

Join Child Support Awareness Month

'I Love My Child' events in August

Child Support Awareness month is nationally recognized each year during the month of August to focus on the importance of providing financial support for children.

Child Support Awareness month recognizes child support professionals and parents who are committed to making a difference in the lives of children emotionally and financially. In an effort to create awareness in the Ada area, the Chickasaw Nation Department of Child Support Services is conducting the first tribal child support awareness campaign known as "I Love My Child."

"The Chickasaw Nation works hard to provide the best opportunities for children and families," said Gov. Bill Anoatubby. "By taking part in Child Support Awareness Month, we can continue to keep children and families our top priority."

Celebrate with the tribal Department of Child Support Services by attending the following events.

August 3

10 a.m. – Kick-off and Balloon Launch

Chickasaw Nation Youth and Family back parking lot - 231 Seabrook Road, Ada

August 15

9 a.m. - Walk in the Park - Wintersmith Park, Ada

August 22

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Family Fun Day

Chickasaw Nation Youth and Family back parking lot - 231 Seabrook Road, Ada

Each year millions of children nationwide are affected financially due to parental separations. To help combat those statistics, the Chickasaw Nation Department of Child Support Services is cracking down on unfulfilled child support obligations by assisting families in the state of Oklahoma.

In 2008, the Chickasaw Nation Department of Child Support Services collected and distributed more than $5.6 million in child support. The department has also assisted eight Native American tribes with the development of their own tribal child support enforcement programs. Since 2007, more than 3,800 cases have been transferred to these new tribal programs.

For more information about Child Support Awareness month or assistance in child support services, call (866) 431-3419 or visit www.chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.

Chickasaws teach teachers how to connect with Indian kids

EDMOND, Okla. - Several Chickasaw staff members, Oklahoma tribal representatives, artists and educators gathered on the University of Central Oklahoma campus in Edmond June 13 to learn how to more effectively connect with their American Indian students.

"So many educators are hesitant to teach Native American material," said Laura Stewart, Chickasaw Nation Arts in Education director, "they are sensitive to the fact that they might teach something incorrectly and we try to help them to be able to connect with their Native American students."

The conference is co-sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation, the Choctaw Nation, the Oklahoma Center for Arts Education, and the Oklahoma Folklife Council

Comanche Nation College professor Juanita Pahdopony Mithlo served as keynote speaker.

Participants enjoyed "make and take" sessions where they gained hands-on experience in crafts such as pottery and hide painting.

Trina Jones, Chickasaw Nation art instructor, demonstrated how to make traditional neckwear during her session, "Gorgeous Gorgets."

Chickasaw Nation Humanities and Literary Arts Coordinator Laura Clark hosted a writing workshop entitled "Full Circle: Journey into the Imaginative Narrative."

Mary Shackleford, who home schools her three youngest children, found the conference to be especially helpful.

"I didn't grow up knowing a lot of the Native American traditions, so sometimes it's a struggle to tie them in," she said. "Today, I've heard so many great ideas on how to incorporate Native American art into the children's learning, she said.

"It's especially helpful that the sessions are so hands-on."

The Connecting to American Learners Conference is an annual event. For more information on future conferences, contact the Oklahoma Center for Arts Education at (405) 216-2588 or at www.ocae.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carrie Buckley, tribal media relations.

BIRTHS

Akaya Davenport

Akaya Jaidlyn Davenport was born June 6, 2009 at Carl Albert Indian Hospital, Ada, Okla. She weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz., and measured 20.5 inches at birth.

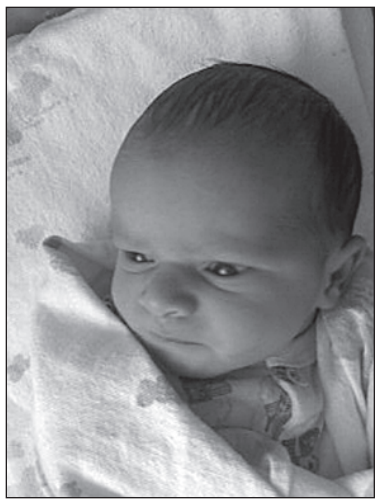
Akaya is the daughter of Keeri Jean Scroggins and Joshua Allen Davenport.

She is the granddaughter of Don and DeAnn Scroggins, of Ada, and Linda Stephens, of Pasco, Wash.

Chloe Martin

Chloe Faith Martin was born May 1, 2009 at 10:16 p.m. at Carl Albert Indian Hospital, Ada, Okla. She weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz., and measured 18 ½ inches at birth. Proud parents are Drue and Bambi Martin.

Chloe is the granddaughter of Gae Vonne Martin, Robert Martin, both of Ada, and Bill and Vickie Gibson, of Burleson, Texas.



Joshua Neustadter

Joshua Daniel Matthew Neustadter was born March 17, 2009 at 9:23 a.m. at Centerpoint Medical Center, Independence, Mo. He weighed 7 lbs., 4 oz., and measured 20 inches at birth.

Joshua is the son of Daniel Neustadter and Crystal Vaden-Jeustadter, of Lee's Summit, Mo. He is the little brother of Destiny Vaden.

His maternal grandparents are Willie and Kathy Vaden, of Kansas City, Mo. His paternal grandparents are Roger Neustadter and Sharon Conrad-Neustadter, of Maryville, Mo.

Joshua is such a joy. Seeing him grow and learn and develop is a true blessing. We thank God for the best gifts every given – children.

Ereyn Taylor

Erey Steven and Lou Ann Taylor, of Ardmore, Okla., announce the birth of their daughter, Ereyn Paige Taylor. Ereyn was born at 7:56 a.m., April 27, 2009 at Marcy Memorial Hospital, Ardmore. She weighed 9 lbs., 6 oz., and measured 21 ¼ inches at birth.

She is the granddaughter of Mary Taylor and the late Woodrow Taylor, Russell and Hawaii Anoatubby, all of Ardmore, and the late Diann Anoatubby.

Ereyn joins sisters, Amy Johnson, Stepahnie, Selina, Chanena, Elizabeth, and Piper Taylor, of Ardmore; brother-in-law Donnie Johnson and nephew, Derrick Taylor, of Admore.

Autumn Yott

Autumn Rose Yott was born Feb. 10, 2009 at 7:05 p.m. at Carl Albert Indian Hospital, Ada, Okla. She weighed 8 lbs., 2.8 oz., and measured 20.8 inches at birth.

Autumn is the daughter of Russell and Daniela Yott, of Konawa, Okla.

She is the granddaughter of Dewayne and Sharon Wallace, of Seminole, Okla., and Ernestin and Arlis Yott, of Konawa.

She is the great-granddaughter of Dale and Donna Wallace, and Jirl and June McGinnis, all of Seminole.

Autumn was born on her dad's 24th birthday.

BIRTHDAYS

Megan Mullins

Megan Mackenzie Mullins celebrated her 11th birthday May 14, 2009 with many family and friends.

Megan is the daughter of Cheryl and James Baracosa, of Escalon, Calif., and Cathy Mullins, of Ripon, Calif.

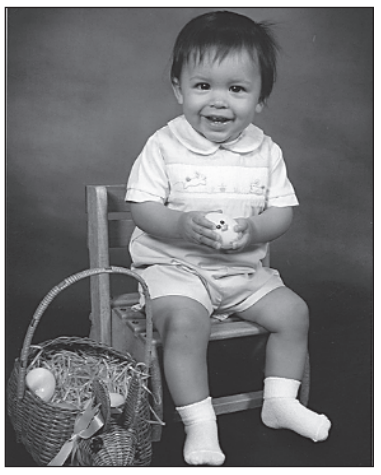
She is the granddaughter of Jack and Janice Richison, of Calif., and Okla., Patricia and Phil Cole, of Medford, Ore., and Robert Mullins and Barbara Morales, of Oakdale, Calif.

She is the great-granddaughter of Marilyn Weaver, of Modesto, Calif., and the great-great-granddaughter of the late Ora Nichols an original enrollee.

Abigaile Trawick

Abigaile Perry Trawick celebrated her eighth birthday May 3, 2009.

Abigaile is the daughter of Deatra Perry Trawick and the granddaughter of David Eli Perry, both Chickasaw citizens. She is a direct descendant of Morgan Perry.



Jayden Postoak

Jayden Postoak celebrated his first birthday June 19, 2008. Jayden is the son of Brittany Postoak, of Baytown, Texas. He is the grandson of Vicki and Patrick Postoak, of Baytown and the great-grandson of Edmond and Doris Postoak, of Ada, Okla.

CHICKASAW STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Little Miss Chickasaw Chelsea Wedlow with movie legend Saganaw Grant at Red Earth.

Complete the Customer Service Survey and win!

Chickasaw citizens who complete a tribal customer service survey can win $100.

Chickasaws can access the Customer Service Survey through the tribal website at www.chickasaw.net. The survey seeks input from citizens regarding tribal programs, services and customer service.

After completing the survey, enter the giveaway. The $100 will be given away each quarter. Winners will be announced in *the Chickasaw Times.*

CHICKASAW STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Chestine Underwood

Chestine Underwood earns 'Top Dog Award'

Chickasaw student Chestine Underwood was awarded the "Top Dog Award" for fifth grade at Sulphur (OK) Intermediate School. One boy and one girl from each grade are selected for the award.

This prestigious honor is based on outstanding citizenship, courtesy, exemplary work habits and responsibility. Chestine received the "Top Dog" trophy at the end-of-year schoolwide assembly on May 19.

Chestine is the son of Dennis and Tina Underwood.

Joe Arbuckle

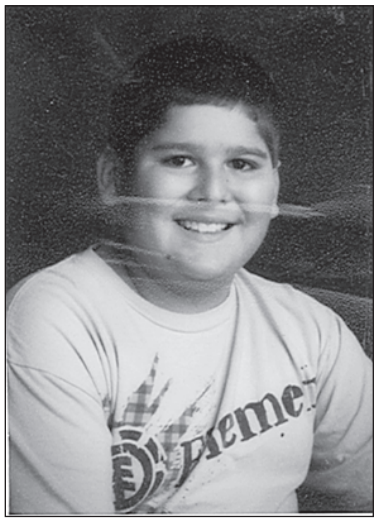
Joe Arbuckle medals at Special Olympics

STILLWATER, Okla. – Joe Arbuckle, son of Dale and Christy Arbuckle of Wagoner, Okla., participated in the Special Olympics in Stillwater on May 14.

Joe ran in a 50-meter race winning his heat and bringing home a gold medal. Joe also did the softball throw and placed fifth. He enjoyed all the festivities.

Coach Barry Switzer led the athletes out for the opening ceremonies on Wednesday night. Festivities also included a dance on Thursday night.

Over 4,000 athletes participated from all over Oklahoma. It's an amazing event they put on every year.



Kaelan Hutchings

Kaelan Hutchings is top math student

Kaelan Lane Hutchings, a seventh-grade student at Gene Pike Middle School in Haslet, Texas, was awarded the Math Challenge student of the year 2009 at the Awards of Excellence Assembly on May 22.

This award is presented each year to the top math student by the math teachers at the school. He won the award two years in a row and was also on the honor roll last year.

Kaelan is the son of Kevin and Terri Hutchings, of Edmond, Okla. and Heidi and Bob Lemke of Haslet, Texas. He is the grandson of Evelyn Hutchings of Norman, Okla., and Terry and Jeanie Hutchings, of Calera, Okla., and Harold and Geneva Lamle, of Lawton, Okla.

Kaelan is the great nephew of Robert Holden of Washington, D.C. and Marilyn and Terry Hofstra of Arcata, Calif.

Kaelan is 1/8 Chickasaw and 1/8 Choctaw.

TU's Lindsay named to All-Region team

University of Tulsa right fielder Lauren Lindsay has been named to the Louisville Slugger/NFCA Division I All-Region teams. Lindsay, a Chickasaw citizen, was named to the all-region team for the first time.

She leads Tulsa in almost every offensive category. She is hitting .414 with 72 hits, 37 runs batted in, 43 runs, 21 walks and eight home runs. She has a .649 slugging percentage and a .490 on-base percentage.

Lindsay's batting average ranks 35th in the nation, and her doubles-per-game average of 0.32 per game ranks 17th in the country. In addition, Lindsay leads Conference USA in batting aveage and ranks among the top five in five categories.

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association's all-region teams honor student-athletes from 10 regions. A total of 264 players from 121 different institutions comprise the regional teams. The NFCA all-region teams were chosen by NFCA member coaches from each region, and all the honorees will now be eligible for selection to the Louisville Slugger/NFCA All-American teams.

Lakota Taylor making the honor rolls

Lakota Taylor

Lakota Taylor will be entering second grade in the Coalgate, Okla., School System and was recently promoted with honors. He was a member of the principal's and superintendent's honor rolls all of this year.

He works hard to keep his grades up and settles for nothing less than perfection with anything he does. Lakota rarely misses school, and has a very strong work ethic and also loves the outdoors.

He is the son of Loretta Taylor of Olney, Okla., grandson of the late Tom Taylor, and Leona Pasquali, of Coalgate. He is the nephew of Glenda Galvan, Sharon Strecker and Sharla McCurry.

We're very, very proud of you, Lakota!

Matt Mayes

Chickasaw ballplayer hitting his stride on the diamond, in the classroom

Matt Mayes, a Chickasaw ball player, was recently named "Little City Baseball Player of the Year" by *the Oklahoman*. He also was chosen first team All-State first baseman.

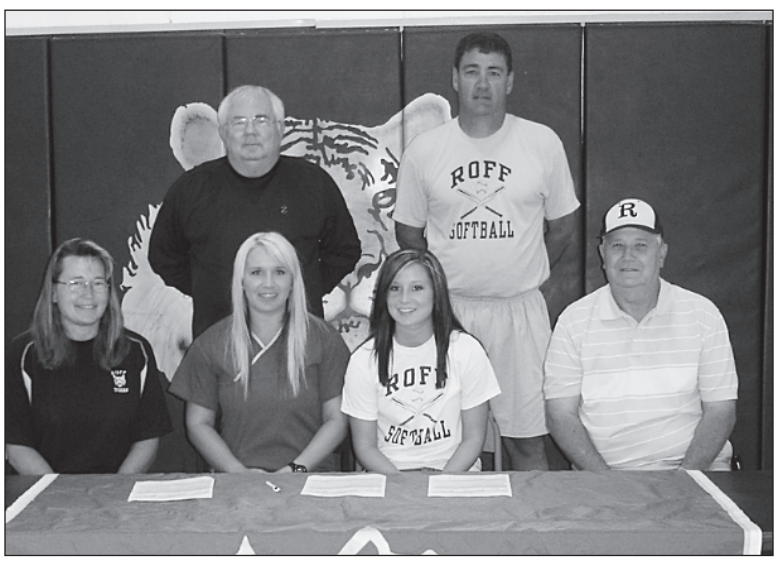
Matt is a 2009 graduate of Purcell High School. He finished his high school senior baseball season with a .602 batting average, .710 on base percentage, 12 home runs, 51 runs batted in, and 27 stolen bases.

Matt led the Purcell Dragons to the semi-finals of the 3A state tournament, only losing to the eventual state champions Sperry. Matt is currently playing with the Ada Braves American Legion team. The Braves are one of the top ranked teams in the region and have now won 16 straight games against quality competition.

Matt graduated with a 4.16 grade point average, was a member of the Chickasaw Honor Society and National Honor Society. He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in the fall and major in engineering.

He is the son of Roger and Carrie Mayes, of Purcell, and the grandson of Carolyn Wallace, of Ardmore.

Roff grad signs with Eastern



Chickasaw student Tyla Truett recently signed a letter of intent to play collegiate softball at Eastern Oklahoma State College. Tyla is a 2009 graduate of Roff (OK) High School where she was named to the fast pitch and slow pitch All State teams. Back row from left, EOSC softball coach Andy Mace and Roff Athletic Director/ Assistant Softball Coach Mike Stewart. Front row from left, Roff softball coach Kathy Gregson, Tessa Truett (sister), Tyla Truett and father Ron Truett.

CHICKASAW STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Kristin Marris

Kristen Marris makes impact at Midland; now headed to Temple

Chickasaw Softball player Kristen Marris has standout season at Midland College earning team MVP

In her first season at Midland Junior College, Kristen emerged as a rising star both on the mound and at the plate for the Chaparrals.

She transferred to Midland after her freshman year at Division I New Mexico State University (NMSU), where she was a walk-on pitcher coming in behind several senior players and pitching only 18 innings in the 2007-2008 season.

"New Mexico State University was a good school but they isolated me as a pitcher and I really wanted to play outfield and bat as well," she said. "While there I got to pitch a game against Team USA, getting to play people I watched growing up was an awesome experience."

With the opportunity to transfer to Midland on a scholarship gaining added playing time at the college level, the The Colony, Texas native returned home to play her sophomore season at Midland.

As a pitcher at NMSU, Kristen didn't get to bat and coming into her sophomore season she had not batted since high school. Midland brought Kristen in not only as a pitcher but expanded her role having her play outfield allowing her the opportunity to bat again.

"I was really pleased with my decision to transfer to Midland College," Kristen said. "They have an excellent batting coach and it gave me the opportunity to play outfield and pitch allowing me to play in every game."

Kristen came out swinging and had a standout season at the plate batting .420 with two home runs, 30 RBI, 92 hits, and a team leading 72 runs scored.

She ended the season pitching with a record of 12-3, 0.71 earned run average and 72 strikeouts. She pitched the team's only no hitter of the season striking out 10 batters.

Outstanding hitting and pitching lead Kristen to be named Team MVP, 2009 All-WJCAC/All-NJCAA Region V-West Softball Team honors, 2009 Louisville Slugger/NFCA NJCAA Division I All-American 2nd team , and awarded All-Conference honors.

Midland College ended its season with a 50-15 record and 20-4 record in conference play winning the Western Junior College Athletic Conference and earning a first seed in regional play.

As a youth, Kristen attended many of the Chickasaw Nation summer youth softball camps.

"It was a great opportunity and really exciting to go to the camps and meet college coaches and players," she said. "They helped me learn a lot of techniques that helped me advance to the next level."

Next year Kristen will be headed to Division I Temple University, in Philadelphia, on a full ride softball scholarship to continue her softball career. She plans on possibly trying to go pro after graduation.

"I gained a lot of confidence while at Midland College and I think this is going to help me excel next year at Temple University," Kristen said.

Kristen Marris is majoring in Geology, maintaining a 3.6 grade point average throughout her college career.

She is the daughter of Charles Marris and Deana Marris.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jeremy Oliver, tribal media relations.

Jalen Underwood

Jalen Underwood receives honors

A Chickasaw student who will enter fifth grade this fall was recognized at the conclusion of his fourth-grade year.

Jalen Underwood attends Homer Elementary School, Ada, Okla. Jalen was voted funniest, most intelligent, most likely to succeed and best all-around boy in his class.

He achieved the highest accelerated reading points among the school population of 600. He served as his class president and placed second in the spelling bee.

Jalen is the son of Gina Underwood and J.D. Underwood.

His grandparents are Jack and Barbara Underwood and Kathy and James Harris, and Gene Postoak.

Chad Whittington with Troop 13 Scout Leader Dr. John Garber

Chad Whittington earns JOM award

Chickasaw Scout Chad Whittington was a Johnson-O'Malley Award winner this year.

He is a Scout in Troop 13, Ada, Okla.

He is the son of Lorianne Towers.

Noelle Hurt, left, at the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Banquet with Chickasaw Nation representative Lynne Chatfield.

Chickasaw student Noelle Hurt honored as Oklahoma Academic All-Stater

A Chickasaw student was recently honored as a 2009 Academic All-Stater.

Noelle Hurt, of Stratford, Okla., was among the 100 top high school seniors in Oklahoma honored during the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Academic Awards Banquet. The banquet was conducted in Norman, Okla.

Noelle is a 2009 graduate of Stratford High School.

The Academic Awards Banquet is presented annually by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. The foundation is a non-profit organization that recognizes and encourages academic excellence in Oklahoma's public schools.

The Chickasaw Nation is a major sponsor of the banquet and Gov. Bill Anoatubby serves as a foundation trustee.

In addition to the Academic All-State honor, Noelle has received an All-State scholarship sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation.

Noelle is the daughter of Patricia Hurt.

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Miss Chickasaw Carla Lane

A message from Miss Chickasaw Carla Lane

Chukma! My name is Carla Lane and I am the 2008-2009 Chickasaw Princess! I have had a very busy, yet very exciting year so far representing the Chickasaw Nation at many events.

During April I had the honor to represent the Chickasaw Nation at Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, N.M. I met many other princesses from the other tribes and got to learn a few things about their culture, and I saw many different dances performed at the pow wows. I took part in the Grand Entry on Friday and Saturday. I looked around and saw a lot of different styles of jewelry, regalia, moccasins, and food.

While in Albuquerque, I had the chance to go to the pueblo Cultural Center and had the chance to eat at their new restaurant and experience their food. I went to a demonstration and got to see some of the dances they perform.

It was a wonderful experience to be able to attend Gathering of Nations.

During the month of May, I attended the Headstart Graduations, and opened the ceremonies by performing the Lord's Prayer. It was great to see the smiles on the kids faces as they walked across stage to receive their diplomas, and enter into a new milestone in their life. Each graduating class sang songs and performed little skits that made the graduations exciting.

Earlier this month I got the chance to represent the Chickasaw Nation at Red Earth in Oklahoma City. I was in the Parade that went around downtown Oklahoma City.

I attended the Grand Entries and watched the dancers compete in many different dances. It was really neat to watch the way that they move in their regalia.

Since I have been princess, time has gone by so fast. It is hard to believe that my reign is almost up. I only have about three months left in my reign, but I am looking forward to the upcoming events where I will be able to represent the Chickasaw Nation.

Chickasaw actor Clint Kimbrough honored with film festival

ALLEN, Okla. – A film honoring the late Chickasaw actor Clint Kimbrough was conducted June 19 and 20 in Allen.

Mr. Kimbrough was born in Oklahoma City, and his family moved to Allen when he was a baby. He graduated from Allen High School in the 1950s and moved to New York when he was 18.

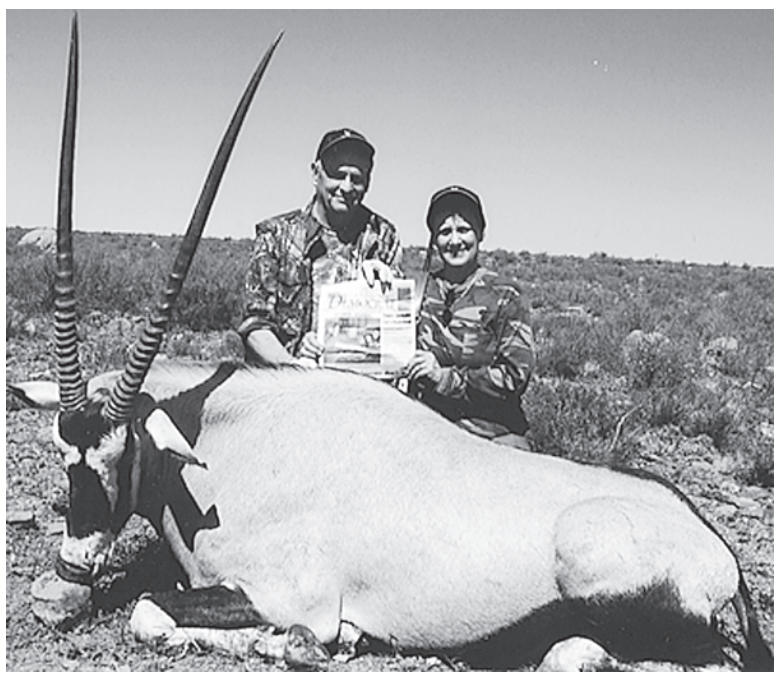
Before moving to Hollywood in 1967, he appeared in several television seires and films, including "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," "Westinghouse Studio One: The Night America Trembled," and "G.E. Theater."

Mr. Kimbrough also had a small part in "The Boston Strangler." In 1958, he starred in "Hot Spell" opposite Anthony Quinn, Shirley Booth, Earl Holliman and Shirley McLaine.

He was one of the Co-stars in the 1970s film "Bloody Mama." An evil brood of brothers and their domineering mother, the Barker Gang, terrorized northern Arkansas, Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Missouri in the 1930s. Mr. Kimbrough played one of Ma Barker's dangerous boys in the movie based on their lives.

Showings of Mr. Kimbrough's films were enjoyed by the many in attendance.

South African safari



Former Pauls Valley residents Don and Barbara Tolleson recently participated in a South African safari. Don harvested a kudu, and Barbara shot the gemsbuck pictured above. Don is the son of Ruby Tolleson. Barbara is the daughter of Bob and Mary Lou Nichols.

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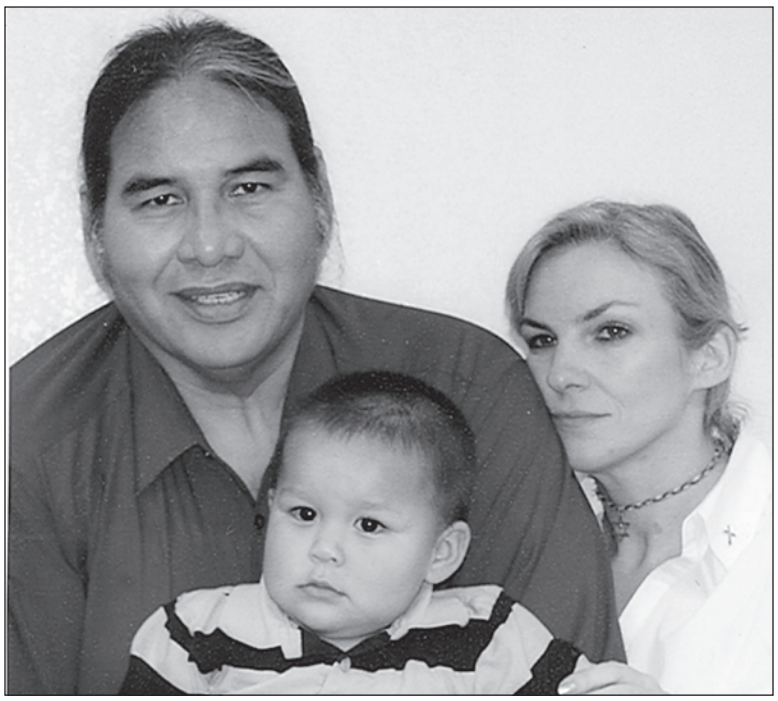
PGA golfer Justin Leonard signs programs for Chickasaw boys Justin, Blake and Logan Havern, of Collierville, Tenn., at the PGA St. Jude Classic conducted at Memphis. Leonard, who won the tournament last year, gave each of the boys an autographed glove. They are the sons of Chris and Amy Havern.

WEDDING



Tim and Charla Harjo

Timothy Harjo and Charla Branson exchanged wedding vows December 30, 2008 at the United Methodist Church in Hitchita, Seminole, Okla. Pastor Abraham Jackson officiated the blessing of 1 Cor 13.

Charla is the daughter of Charles F. Branson and the late Georgia Davis, of Honobia, Okla.

Tim is Chickasaw/Seminole and lifetime resident of Ada, Okla. He is currently employed at Chickasaw Nation Cabinet Shop Unit. He is known for his expertise in cultural knowledge of the Chickasaws.

The couple will reside in Ada, Okla.

Charla loves the people of Ada and thinks it's a great place to live.

Otto and Lillie Brown – Remembrance Reunion
In honor of our Parents, Blood, Sweat and Tears

You are cordially invited to come and share, laugh and reminisce with Otto and Lillie's family! The festivities will begin on Friday, August 7 with a meet and greet at the Days Inn in Ardmore, Okla.; Saturday, August 8 the reunion festivities; Sunday, August 9, supper and birthday cake.

Contact Cheryl Renee Hansbrough, Missouri, at (816) 795-0127, or Daphine Brown, Oklahoma, at (405) 207-9978 or email Sandra D. Pickens at sdpickens@yahoo.com for more information.

California Chickasaw running for open House seat in San Francisco district

SAN FRANCISCO – Chickasaw citizen, Adriel Hampton is running for the U.S. House of Representatives in California's District 10. He is running for an open seat. The former congresswoman, Ellen Tauscher, retired to accept the position of Undersecretary of State of Arms Control and International Security.

Hampton first thought of running in 2003, when Congress voted authorizing the occupation of Iraq. "What Congress needs is more Congressmen who will vote against war," he said.

But that isn't the only reason Hampton, a Democrat, is running.

"The Democratic party as a whole is very strong on promoting social issues, while they kind of leave the working class to pay for it all," he said. "Policies like the government bailouts left the working class hurting, and I just want to make sure that things like the economic stimulus go to the neighborhoods and not some national bank."

Hampton worked for the City of San Francisco as a City Attorney investigator starting in 2005. He said the experience had given him a strength that will be useful in Congress.

"As City Attorney investigator, I often had to investigate public officials who were accused of wrong doing," he said.

Hampton admitted to having very little funding for his campaign, but is currently raising money while working with an extended volunteer network. His

Adreil Hampton

volunteers include many supporters he gained during his time as the City Attorney investigator, and members of the church he attends. He is also using the Internet and new media to get his name known.

"I'm using Obama's method of campaigning, which uses social network sites such as Facebook and Twitter to reach voters," said Hampton. "The accessibility these avenues afford me is another strength that I think I can bring to Congress. People can get in touch with me using these avenues at any time."

Hampton is the host of an Internet radio show entitled Gov 2.0 Radio, which focuses on the ways technology can be used to make the government more transparent. He is using social network sites to advertise his campaign.

Hampton is running for office because he believes control over the government is in the hands of a political class, when it should be equally accessible to every citizen. He supports the agenda of the working middle class and identifies with families. Hampton will promote equal rights for individuals.

In addition to transparency, Hampton supports collaboration with citizens in regards to government decisions.

"I grew up in a working middle class family," Hampton said. "Politicians are sometimes not in touch with the needs of regular people."

If elected, Hampton said he would create jobs focused on public transit development. He has pledged to vote against funding expansion of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. He supports universal health care for all citizens.

Hampton is one of nine candidates seeking the Congressional seat. The primary is Sept. 1, and the general election is set for Nov. 3.

Hampton was born in Modesto, Calif., and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 2001. He and his wife recently celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary, and have two sons who are 4 and 2.

For more information, visit www.adrielhampton.com

CONTRIBUTED BY Forrest Cheadle, tribal summer youth worker.

Deadline to apply is July 31

Chickasaw Princess applications available

Applications are now available for 2009-2010 Chickasaw Princess Pageant participants. The annual pageant is set for September 28 at the Ada Cougar Activity Center in Ada, Okla.

Young Chickasaw ladies will vie for Chickasaw Princess, age 17 to 25; Chickasaw Junior Princess 12 to 16; or Little Miss Chickasaw, seven to 11.

The newly-crowned royalty will have the honor and privilege of representing the Chickasaw Nation at various functions and events across the country.

The Chickasaw princesses have been making appearances for many years.

The heritage of the princesses goes back to 1963 when Ranell (James) Harry, daughter of former Chickasaw Governor Overton James, was appointed the first princess.

The 2008-2009 Chickasaw royalty are Miss Chickasaw Carla Lane, Junior Miss Chickasaw Julie Underwood and Little Miss Chickasaw Princess Chelsea Wedlow.

Applicants must be residents of the Chickasaw Nation, be at least one-quarter Chickasaw, be a registered Chickasaw citizen, be the required age by the date of the pageant, never have been married, must not have any children, must never have served as a princess in the respective category, must have reliable transportation, abstain from the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco-related products during the reign as princess, attend public or private school and be working toward a diploma or be a high school graduate or equivalent. Contestants must also attend an orientation workshop and must provide their traditional dress.

Applications may be picked up at the Youth and Family Services building on Seabrook Road in Ada or on the web at www.chickasaw.net.

Applications must be returned to the Princess Program at the Division of Youth and Family Services, 231 Seabrook Road, Ada, OK 74820.

In addition to completing the application, princess hopefuls must write an essay, have three letters of reference from non-relatives and submit a 5x7 self-portrait.

The deadline to apply is July 31.

For more information, contact Toni Castleberry, princess program coordinator, at (580) 272-7710 or email toni.castleberry@chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Contestant reimbursement now available

Chickasaw Princess Pageant contestants are now eligible for reimbursement for expenses related to the pageant, to help defray the cost of participating.

To receive reimbursement, contestants must participate in all areas of the pageant. Reimbursement will not take place until after the pageant has been completed.

For more information, contact Toni Castleberry, princess program coordinator, at (580) 272-7710 or email toni.castleberry@chickasaw.net.

Easterling appointed tribal legislature Secretary

Holly Easterling

Holly Easterling, Pontotoc District, Seat 1 Chickasaw Tribal Legislator, has been appointed Secretary of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature.

Mrs. Easterling was appointed in June. She fills the Secretary position left open by the resignation of previous Secretary Dr. Judy Goforth Parker. Dr. Parker resigned to become administrator of the Chickasaw Nation Division of Health.

"I am honored to be selected by my colleagues to fulfill this important office," Mrs. Easterling said. "It is imperative that our citizens receive accurate information regarding actions of the tribal legislature."

Mrs. Easterling also serves as Finance Committee chairman.

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Qualifies for Boston Marathon

Chickasaw runner making waves in distance races

Josh Stewart, a Chickasaw from the Ada area, is a serious runner who doesn't seem to take himself too seriously.

A grueling training schedule helped him win literally hundreds of cross country and track events as a high school and college athlete. But he is still having fun.

"I always got in trouble for joking around at practice," he said. "In fact, I still get in trouble a lot," he said with a gleam in his eye and a wide grin.

Josh Stewart

In his first marathon ever, Stewart ran the 26-plus miles in two hours, 39 minutes and 30 seconds.

In conditions that were far from ideal, he averaged just over six minutes per mile to take second place in a field of 19,000 at the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon in April.

"It was 90 degrees and 90 percent humidity and the wind was blowing 40 miles an hour," said Stewart.

Extremely competitive, Stewart was not happy with his time, because he had hoped to run the race in under two hours and 25 minutes. Still, the jokes came easily as he talked about his career as a runner.

He said he had been playing sports as long as he could remember.

"Mom used to have to yell at me and my brother to come in the house, because we would be out playing all day," he said.

While he has always loved baseball and basketball, Stewart discovered running as a sport at a relatively late age. When he was a sophomore in high school, a friend invited him to join the cross country team as a way to get into physical condition prior to basketball season.

The friends were a little late for practice, and the other runners were a half-mile into a three-mile run when they arrived.

Before the end of the run, Stewart had caught and passed the other runners.

"After that day, I thought 'maybe I should check into this a little bit more,'" Stewart said with a chuckle.

Since that time, he has run track and cross country at Byng High School, East Central University and Cameron University, breaking most of the school records in events he has run at each institution.

While Stewart's time in the Oklahoma City Marathon qualified him for the prestigious Boston Marathon, he will not be able to compete in that event, because it will be conducted during the cross country season.

He said he was not overly concerned that he wouldn't be able to compete in Boston, because he expects to have other opportunities.

"But mom always likes to tell everyone I qualified for that," he said.

A senior at Cameron University in Lawton, Okla., Stewart hopes to earn honors as an all-American this season. He also plans to continue training in hopes of earning a place on the 2012 U.S. Olympic team as a marathon runner.

While he said he enjoys some of the shorter races more, he feels the marathon is his best chance to compete at that level.

In preparation, he trains four or more hours six days a week.

His current training routine includes "easy days" each Monday, Wednesday and Friday when he "only" runs three to five miles each morning and 10 to 12 miles each afternoon.

Tuesdays and Thursdays he works to build speed by running repeated quarter-mile, half-mile and one-mile distances with short rests between. During these sessions his one-mile times are often in the 4:45 second range, while his quarter-mile times are around 68 seconds.

Each Thursday he also does a minimum of 800 push-ups. He said he hoped to increase the number of push-ups to 1,000 as he continues training. His training also includes a variety of stretches and exercises to strengthen specific muscle groups.

Each Sunday he runs 20 miles or more.

He said the key to successful training is "patience and consistency."

"You've got to get up every day and do it whether you want to or not," he said. "You lace up the shoes, walk out the door no matter what and you just get going.

"No matter how you feel you just get out there and do it. Some of the runs are just miserable sometimes, but I know they have to get done, so I do it. It helps having an Ipod sometimes," he added with a laugh.

But speed and stamina are not the only things necessary for success.

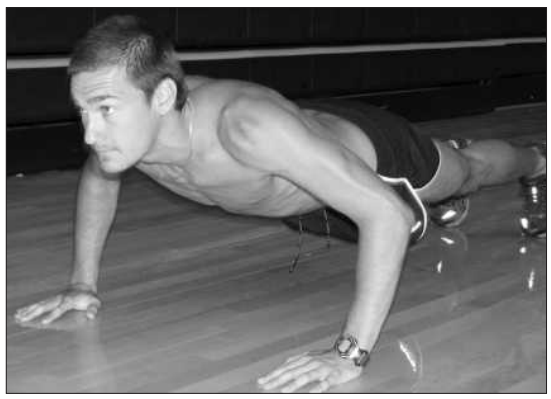
"There are a lot of tactics in races, especially in track," he said.

That strategy includes running at a comfortable pace for most of a longer race, then timing a burst of speed, or "kick," near the end.

"A lot of people don't understand that fast times just kind of come, sometimes," he said. "You can't just go out and run a fast time every time."

One of his running role models is the late runner Steve Prefontaine.

"He was definitely the gutsiest runner ever, I think," he said. "That's what I'm all about."



Stewart is studying to be a coach and teacher. When he completes his senior year he plans to begin work on his master's degree in physical education.

"As long as I can train and get by, I'll be happy," he said.

CONTRIBUTED BY Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

Stanford law student active in Indian, civil rights causes

Chickasaw student Laura R. Jacobsen graduated from Stanford University in June 2008. She received a bachelor's degree with a double major in political science and psychology. She also studied abroad at Oxford University, England in Fall 2007.

Laura Jacobsen

Ms. Jacobsen is currently attending Stanford Law School. She is the vice-president of the Native American Law Student Association and participates on the Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. She hopes to continue to pursue American Indian rights and civil rights. She has devoted her summers to public service in the area of law.

In 2005, she interned for the Cherokee Nation, Washington Office through the Chickasaw Nation Internship Program. She helped promote American Indian interests.

Ms. Jacobsen attended all relevant hearings in the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and House Resources Committee, tracked legislation, researched appropriations and attended strategy meetings with the National Indian Health Board. She was proud to assist in a Trail of Tears Press Conference with Principal Chief Chad Smith on Capitol Hill.

Ms. Jacobsen was awarded Stanford University's Haas Center Public Service Public Interest Law Fellowship in 2006. She worked for the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Reno, Nevada. She wrote briefs evaluating cases, evidence and jury instructions. She also participated in client interviews and attended court hearings. Ms. Jacobsen also researched and annotated the handbook for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In 2007, she interned with Senator Harry Reid, U.S. Senate Majority Leader on Capitol Hill in Washington. She reported on Senate Democratic Policy Committee meetings and Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearings. Once again, she promoted Indian healthcare by contacting and sending out official invitations to various tribal leaders for weekly meetings featuring Indian healthcare and transportation infrastructure.

This summer, she was awarded a Stanford University's Public Service Grant. She is working for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington. She is researching and writing briefs with government attorneys in the area of federal government contracts. Upon completion of her internship in Washington, Ms. Jacobsen will return home where she will be a law clerk for Federal District Judge Brian Sandoval, U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.

Ms. Jacobsen is proud of her Chickasaw heritage. She is the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee, Owen McLarthy (Mack) Crockett. She regularly attended the yearly Crockett family reunion at Fort Washita, Cumberland, Oklahoma when she was younger.

She would like to thank the Chickasaw Nation for their support of her education.

Kids play, parents caddy

Kids Golf Day enjoyed by families

ARDMORE, Okla. - Several families enjoyed a day of golfing during the inaugural Himita Tohli Ahtohne Sholi, a child play/guardian caddy golf tournament, Saturday, June 20 at Lakeview Golf Course in Ardmore.

The event drew 18 Native American players from around the area. Parents, grandparents, and older siblings braved the heat and caddied nine holes for the youngsters.

"You let us play and we will show up," said Joe Palmer, Jr., of Norman, Okla., who was caddying for his 10-year son Justin.

Tyler Brown, a Chickasaw, Lone Grove, Okla., urged her mom Lisa Taylor to accompany her to the tournament.

"This golf course is fantastic," said Taylor.

Britton Sperry, of Ardmore, had both of his grandparents, Bob Sperry and J.T. Garrett as his caddies.

JoAnna Jack caddied for her little sister, Madeline Jack, of Sulphur, Okla. Mom Julie and aunt Mickie Akard were also on-hand to watch the game.

Stormy Randazzo, a Seminole-Creek, of Rowlett, Texas, played the course with her mother Joanie.

Seventy-five-year old Leon Brown, of Ada, caddied for his 12-year-old grandson Dakota George in the tournament.

The event was sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation and designed to promote family fun and fitness.

The players ranged in age from eight to 18.

Trophies were awarded to the top three players in each category at the conclusion of the tournament.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Mark Matthews gives his son Logan some pointers on a shot during Himita Tohli Ahtohne Sholi (kid play, parent caddy) Golf Tournament June 20 at Lakeview Golf Course in Ardmore.

Chickasaw officer earns Bronze Star in Iraq

U.S. Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jay Mitchell and Iraq operations commander Gen. David Petraeus. CWO2 Mitchell, a Chickasaw, was awarded a Bronze Star during his Iraq tour. CWO2 Mitchell developed an identification system for electronic elements that led to the capture of a key enemy bomber and made the use of improvised explosive devices by the enemy much more difficult.

Chickasaw brothers Bryan, left, and Jayson Hogland and dad Tim traveled from Tuttle, Okla., to participate in the golf event sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation.

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Relaxed tournament setting

Young Indian golfers compete in Native American Junior Open

Ten and Under Girls
First place Alivia McCuan, left and Amity Johnson, second place. Alivia also won longest drive in her age group.

Ten and Under Boys
From left, first place, Gerald Walker, second place Logan Matthews and third place Matthew O'Stenn. Logan won longest drive in this age group.

15-18 Boys
First place, Cody Blaine, left, and second place, Jerrad Wilkins. Doug Hargis (not pictured) won third.

ARDMORE, Okla. - Friendly competition among 26 young golfers from different tribal affiliations was the name of the game during the sixth annual Native American Jr. Open Golf Tournament, conducted June 4 at Ardmore's Lakeview Golf Course.

Open to all Native American boys and girls ages 8-18, the event is hosted by the Chickasaw Nation to provide an opportunity for young golfers to compete in a tournament setting, in a relaxed atmosphere.

"Having fun is the thing I enjoy the most about golf," Creek citizen Jaston Korzan, 11, said.

It was his first time to play Lakeview Golf Course, and he reported he found the course to be challenging, yet fun.

Jordan Stick, of Ada, Okla., said the best part of the tournament was eating lunch, which was a hot dog. Jordan, 10, said learned to play golf from television and Chickasaw Nation Golf Camp.

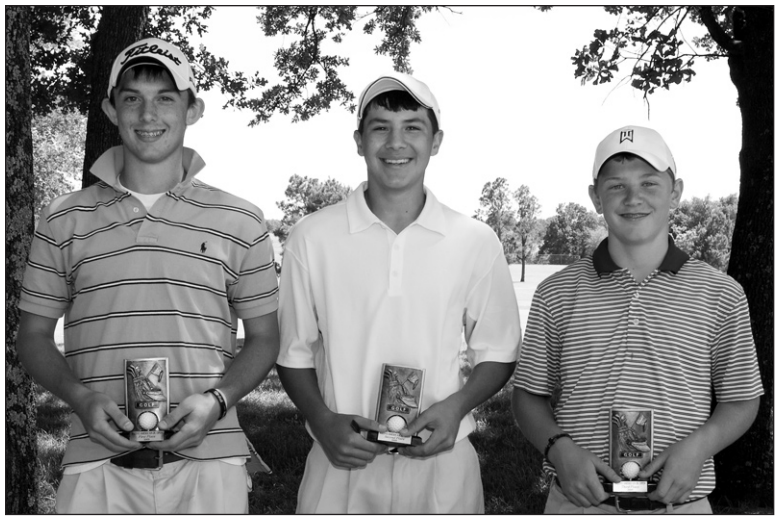
Older player Tyler McCollom, of Tishomingo, Okla., participated in the tournament. He was accompanied by his mom, Lisa, who was keeping score for his team.

Logan Matthews played in his second Native American Junior Open, scoring a 47.

"I shot a 61 last year," he said. "I have been practicing a lot since."

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Ages 15-18 Girls
First place Desiree Lyon, Latta.



From left, Trae Wilkins, first place, Mason Leffel, second, and Austin McNeil, third.

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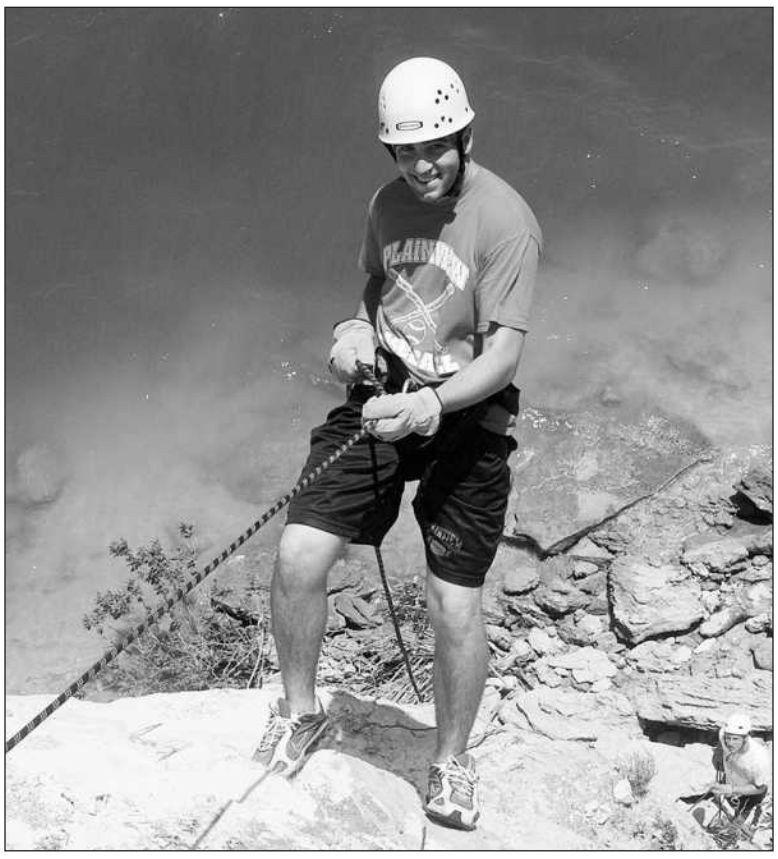
Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Jari Askins speaks to Indian Chamber

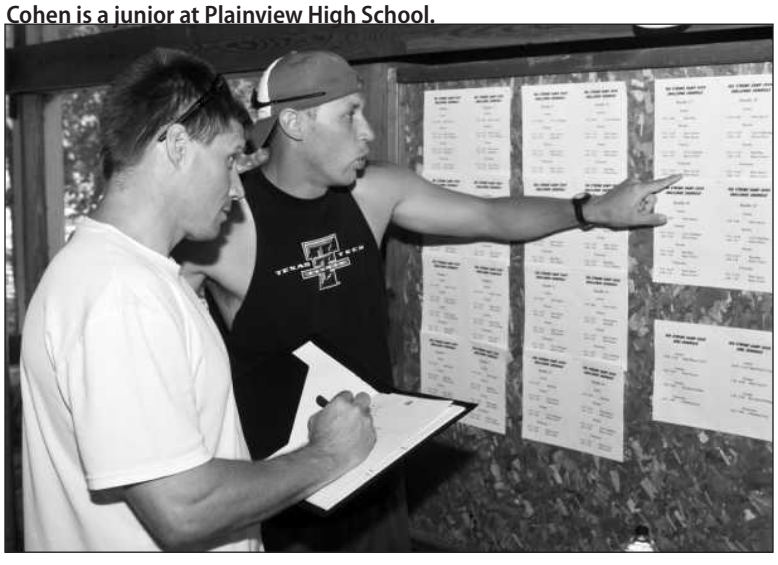
Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins speaks at the American Indian Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting June 9 in Oklahoma City. The meeting was conducted at the Meinders School of Business at Oklahoma City University. Lt. Gov. Askins spoke of the importance of Indian health services to rural Oklahoma. She encouraged dialogue between tribes and the state about using federal stimulus money for housing grants.

Learning outdoor skills, leadership

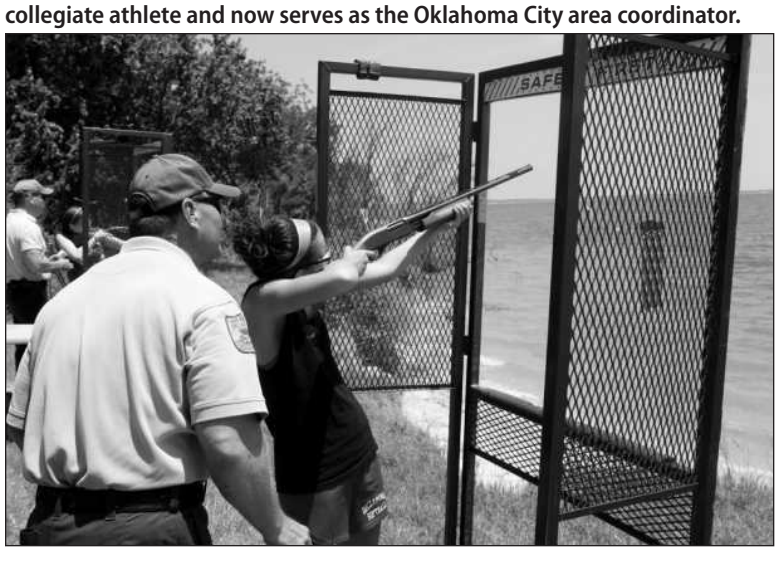
Chickasaw students meet challenges at FCA Camp



Chickasaw Cohen McKenzie tries rappelling for the first time at FCA camp. Cohen is a junior at Plainview High School.



FCA Coordinators Todd Thomsen, left, and Jeremy Tims check the schedule of the day's activities. Tims, a Chickasaw, has worked with FCA since he was a collegiate athlete and now serves as the Oklahoma City area coordinator.



Lindsey Elliott, Ada, tries her hand at skeet shooting at FCA camp under the watchful eye of her instructor.

KINGSTON, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation was well represented among a group of 180 high school students from Oklahoma, Texas and surrounding states at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Xtreme Camp, June 14-18 at Cross Point Camp near Kingston.

The tribe sponsored eight outstanding students to the camp, which builds teamwork, decision-making and leadership skills.

During the four-day camp, participants had the opportunity to rappel, shoot skeet, ride horses, water tube and test their nerve on a ropes course.

Lessons on faith, abstinence, living drug-free, and being a positive role model were also shared.

College athletes serve as leaders for small groups of young men and women known as huddles and the different groups compete in activities such as "bucket ball."

Lindsey Elliott, a recent Ada High graduate and FCA All-State recipient, attended this year for the fourth consecutive time.

"The first year I was kind of nervous, but when I got here I was instantly greeted by the huddle leader, who was so enthusiastic and positive," she said. "From that point on, I was at ease."

The camp challenges have helped her with everyday life situations.

"I have learned that when you are a leader, you have to also be a follower and you have to be a good listener," she said.

Chickasaw Carrie Spain, of Purcell, Okla., said she enjoyed the 32-foot pole challenge the most. Strapped to safety gear, campers hoist themselves up to the top of a wooden pole and jump.

"I had to tell myself 'I can do this' and when I stood up and jumped, it surprised me beyond belief," she said.

Taylor Owen, a Chickasaw camper from Dickson, Okla., said she also liked the "power pole."

"I was shaking before I went up, and then I realized God was helping me through my fear," she said.

Chickasaw citizen Jeremy Tims works on the FCA staff as the Central Oklahoma Coordinator.

While attending college at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Tims worked at the FCA camp as a huddle leader for three years and was hired by the organization soon after graduation.

"This camp breaks you out of your shell," he said. "The Chickasaw Nation is making a good investment in its youth by sponsoring their students in the camp."

"This camp teaches inspiration through perspiration," said Todd Thomsen, Ada, who works as the FCA coordinator for the Southeastern region of Oklahoma.

"Everyone will find something they are not comfortable with, and they are pushed to face their fears and accept the challenge."

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

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'I'm not a failure if I try'

Martial Arts summer lock-in features top instructors, training

Dale Shackelford practicing Kata forms during the summer lock-in.

Chickasaw Martial Arts Summer Lock-in participants joined by Sensei Adolph Pearson (far Left) and Sensei Matt Clark (Far Right).

The Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts program had its first ever summer lock-in, June 12 and 13 in Ada Okla. The event gave current martial arts students and Chickasaw youth interested in joining the program a chance to receive instruction with top-ranked instructors.

The lock-in was a new event designed to give the kids a full range of skill enhancement including training in Shotokan karate, Tae Kwon Do, Kito Ryu Ju Jitsu, and Katas with Chickasaw Nation and special guest instructors.

Adolph Pearson, vice-president of the Oklahoma Karate Association (OKA), was brought in to teach a special two-hour seminar in Seidokan karate allowing for specialized training in a group and individual instruction setting.

"Having Sensei Pearson come in and teach was invaluable to the youth involved," said Sensei Matt Clark, Chickasaw Nation head martial arts instructor. "He has an extensive martial arts background from his years in the military which allowed him to train in Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and several states across the U.S."

Sensei Pearson is an accomplished martial artist with over 30 years experience. He has trained in Japan under Master Soke Toma, founder of the Seidokan karate system. Sensei Pearson was back-to-back OKA tournament state champion from 2002-2007.

As part of the lock-in, the youth started the night with training from Sensei Pearson and proceeded to a pizza party while they watched martial arts movies.

"This was a great experience for me to come in and instruct the youth involved in the lock-in," said Sensei Pearson. "As an instructor I find myself learning as well as teaching when I visit other martial arts dojos."

At 11 p.m., Sensei Clark began an all-night training session until 8 a.m. The session included alternating stations consisting of sparring, grappling, and forms throughout the night. The lock-in was capped off with physical training and a five-mile run.

Several of the Chickasaw martial artists earned enough points to test for an upgrade in belt status. Testing for these youth began at 10 a.m., and was designed to test their skill and determination after a night of physically exhausting training.

"The youth testing for their belts really showed a lot of heart during their belt test performing exceptionally well considering their hard night of training," Sensei Clark said. "All the youth that tested received their belt upgrades and I congratulate them for their tremendous effort."

The Chickasaw martial arts program strives to build the five basic needs of the student by emphasizing character, sincerity, effort, etiquette and self-control.

"The class motto is, 'I'm not a failure if I try,'" said Clark.

The Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts program is offered in five locations across the service area including Achille, Ada, Purcell, Tishomingo, and Ardmore.

Classes are offered free to citizens and employees of the Chickasaw Nation and their immediate family members. Other participants may enroll at a rate of $15 per month.

For more information or to join the Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts program contact Matt Clark, Division of Youth and Family Services, (580)-272-5504 or E-mail Matt.clark@chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jeremy Oliver, tribal media relations.

Tribal water rights at center of Sovereignty Symposium discussions

OKLAHOMA CITY - Negotiation, rather than litigation, is the key building relationships in the quest to define tribal water rights, a Chickasaw Nation attorney told a gathering of tribal officials and others at the annual Sovereignty Symposium last month.

The Sovereignty Symposium, conducted June 3-4, serves as a forum for ideas concerning common legal issues. Information is exchanged in a scholarly, non-adversarial environment.

Stephen Greetham, Special Counsel for the Chickasaw Nation, served as a member of a Water Law panel which included several law professors and state officials.

Greetham specializes in water and natural resources law for the tribe. He described the tribe's efforts in the water rights arena.

"The Chickasaw Nation has worked hard to develop resolutions and channels of communication at the state level," he said.

Stephen Greetham

Although slow and tedious, Greetham said negotiation built better relationships than a courtroom setting.

The tribe is working with the state to develop a new statewide water plan that considers tribal water rights.

"We're changing our minds in Oklahoma about the tribes and how we work with the tribes," said Duane Smith, executive director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB).

A comprehensive plan for the state's water resources must be complete, Greetham said, to protect Oklahoma's water resources from outside interests.

"There's always going to be somebody else who wants to use water resources," Greetham said.

The OWRB has sought tribal input while developing a 50-year water plan for providing high-quality water to all areas of the state.

A draft of the plan is expected to be complete by early 2011.

"There's no question that tribes in Oklahoma have water rights," said Taiawagi Helton, University of Oklahoma College of Law professor. "The rights are fairly strong on paper. The question is then how do we implement those rights?"

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Bill seeks to shield state water

Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry recently signed legislation to protect Oklahoma water rights while also giving consideration to selling water to out-of-state interests.

The measure states that no out-of-state water permit shall impair the state from meeting its obligations under interstate compacts with other states.

The law also requires the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to consider any water shortages or needs across the state when reviewing applications for water sales to out-of-state entities.

The world as classroom at Environmental Camp

Environmental Campers and counselors at Byrd's Mill Spring, front row, from left, Ashton Rawlins, Terrysha Banner, Jeremy Seward, Wade Miller, and Chance Prewitt. Second row from left, Thirkiel Wedlow, Amity Johnson, Chelsea Wedlow, Hunter Conklin and Cynthia Highfield. Third row from left, Ambrie Walker, Wayne Walker, Jennifer Clement, Brandon Prince, Michaela Porter.
Mike McKee

ADA, Okla. – Inquisitive students were enlightened about the world around them during the inaugural Environmental Camp, hosted in May by the Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing and Tribal Development.

The unique camp included trips to many Ada facilities that go unseen by the typical citizen.

Students got a behind-the-scenes look at the Ada Municipal water treatment plant, and waste water treatment plant, the local landfill and Byrd's Mill Spring.

Learning about local recycling efforts included a trip to the Ada Recycling Center, which seemed to be the favorite tour of most of the students.

"I like the trip to the recycling center," said participant Chelsea Wedlow. "I learned that recycling is not that hard and, once you do it, it makes a difference in you.

"Going to the landfill made me think most people don't care about recycling."

The landfill accepts about 100 tons of trash per day. It is expected to be at capacity in about four years.

The group also participated in a scavenger hunt where they learned how to use a compass, measuring tape and GPS units to find and dig for bury treasure.

Hunter Conklin enjoyed the trip to Byrd's Mill Spring, which is Ada's primary water source.

He said he also enjoyed the recycling center.

Chance Prewitt, a Byng fifth grader, also liked the recycling center, but noted he was not aware the city added chlorine to the water at the water treatment plant.

The students also learned that the Ada Tennis Center is built over a large water storage facility and Ada's water usage averages eight to 10 millions gallons per day.

Learning about worms and how they benefit the soil was on the agenda, and students were able to create their own worm bin. Blow guns, archery and archeology were also topics of discussion during camp.

The last day of camp the group featured an outdoor classroom and students learned about water chemistry, water bugs, and bee keeping. They even made a tie-dye t-shirt.

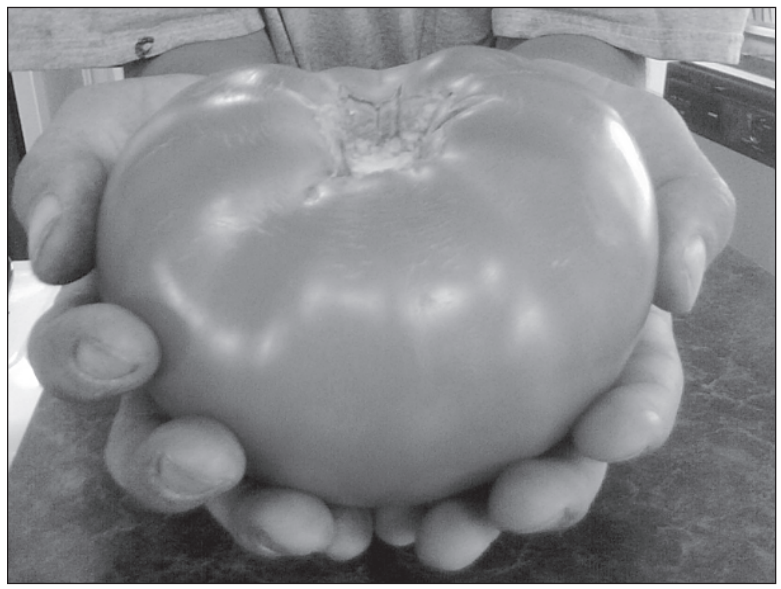
Overall, camper Amity Johnson said, the camp made her appreciate the Earth more.

"There's a lot of stuff you can do to make a difference," she said.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Myna Wilson inspects a water insect specimen at Environmental Camp.

Hydroponics tomato



Chickasaw Nation Community Gardens Supervisor David Correll holds a nearly-two pound tomato that was grown in the greenhouse hydroponic system. Hydroponics is a technique of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions instead of soil. Lettuce and cucumbers are also grown in a hydroponic system and distributed to area senior sites, said Thalia Miller, program director. Summer youth workers are currently growing a variety of produce and plants on the 250 acre-garden in Ada. The produce is available at farmers' markets throughout the Chickasaw Nation.

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Kids get into the swing at tennis camp

Several Chickasaw youth from around the area "held court" at the annual Chickasaw Nation Tennis Clinic, conducted in June at the Ada Tennis Center.

The students spent four days learning the game of tennis, or improving their skills and techniques.

Forty-two beginning tennis players attended tennis clinic June 15-18, marking the largest group ever for the annual Tennis Clinic.

Intermediate and advanced tennis clinic was conducted June 22-25.

Veteran tennis coaches and student athletes served as coaches at the clinic, including Skip Griese, Kevin Waller, Matt Folsom, Luke Cachia and Terry Swopes.

"We had an excellent coaching staff. Not only are they excellent tennis minds, they are excellent with kids as well," said Matt Folsom, Chickasaw Nation Camps and Recreation activity specialist.

First-time tennis clinic participant Jenesis Lewis, eight, said she attended the camp with her older brother. "Hitting the ball," was her answer when asked to name her favorite part of the clinic.

Reece Milner traveled from Purcell, Okla., to attend the clinic.

"I learned how to do the forehand and the backhand and I had a lot of fun," said the eight-year-old.

Both clinics concluded with "play day" where campers hit tennis balls in an attempt to knock over items such as sports drinks, canisters of socks, tennis grips and hats.

Many campers said play day was their favorite game during camp.

Beginning Tennis Clinic participants and coaches, front row, from left, Megan Carney, Ben Connard, Melanie Hicks, Kelly Cooke, Rysha Banner, Brooke Colungo, Maddy Mitchell, Reece Milner, and Derrick Haveren. Second row from left, Matt Stafford, Trevor Brown, Sim Mosely, Raven Carney, Tara Love, Lauren Burden, Madeline Freeman, Sadie Criswell, Parker Cramer, Kailey King and Sean Cooke. Third row from left, Justin Palmer, Roy Asbery, Kia Watkins, Reece Hamilton, Ian King, Harley O'Neal Este Chante, Jenesis Lewis, Caymen Watkins, Taylor Porter and Torrie Hatton. Fourth row from left, Haydoekeyo Tsosie, Jordan Hatton, Jackson Milner, Madelyn Caldwell, Hannah Fortner, Cale Tiger, Veronica Ken, Samantha Perry and Keagen Trett. Back row from left, coaches Luke Cachia, Matt Folsom, Terry Swopes, Skip Griese, and Kevin Waller.

Mike McKee

Students and coaches participating in Advanced Tennis Camp, include, front row, from left, Cortland Chiles, Ada; Tyler Brown, Coalgate; James Byers, Ravia; Clayton Cramer, Tishomingo; and Jonathan White, Sasakwa. Second row, from left, Susan Brokaw, Tishomingo; Lanie Lambert, Ada; Ryan Rico, Ada; Taylor Wood, Ada; Lauri Clark, Ada; Alssya Blankenship, Ada. Third row, from left, coaches Sunny Swopes, Terry Swopes, Kevin Waller and Matt Folsom.

Kelly Cooke, of Ada, keeps her eye on the ball at Beginning Tennis Clinic.

Coach Luke Cachia leads a group of students at Tennis Clinic.

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Beginners to advanced players at Golf Camp

Over 125 youngsters introduced to life on the links

THACKERVILLE, Okla. - Chipping, putting and driving were in focus during the ninth annual Chickasaw Nation Golf Camp, June 8-11 at WinStar Golf Course.

For the second consecutive year more than 125 Chickasaw youth had the opportunity to use the world-class greens at WinStar to learn the game of golf.

Beginners, ages 8-14, took their turn Monday and Tuesday, June 8 and 9. Advanced players honed their golfing skills later in the week, said Chris Alford, camp director.

Beginners learned a variety of new skills and competed in a skills challenge during the last day of camp.

Terra Love, 10, of Ada, Okla., attended her fourth Golf Camp and "learned how to bring more power to my swing."

She also learned how to "pitch in and help the course" from the coaches, such as helping to pick up stray golf balls after a putting lesson.

Spencer Upton, 11, of Sulphur, Okla., attended his first golf camp.

"I've learned a lot, like how to shoot long distances, and putting and chipping," he said.

"I learned how to swing correctly," said 12-year-old Ryan Daniels, of Tishomingo, Okla.

Bryce Holland, of Ada, "learned to keep your legs steady when putting and to hit good distances," he said.

"I learned sportsmanship," said Colton Dresser, of Sulphur.

A small player-to-coach ratio ensured each camper received individual attention, said camp coordinator Alford.

Novice and more advanced players competed in a scramble their last day of camp, which consisted of teams of four playing a round of golf.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

First time camper Mason Lance, Sulphur, didn't let a small injury keep him off the WinStar greens.

Madeline Jack, Sulphur, chips in a shot during Advanced Golf Camp, conducted at WinStar Golf Course last month. Madeline was voted top female camper.

Terra Love, Ada, practices her swing at Beginner's Golf Camp. Mike McKee

Dream Catchers recognized

From left, Bryce Wall, Kelli James and Vincent Baptiste display certificates of merit. The three Ardmore Chickasaw students spearheaded a program to send essential supplies to Lakota Sioux families last winter. The three are members of Dream Catchers, the Native American club at Ardmore High School. Their efforts helped deliver blankets, coats, gloves, quilts, cast iron stoves, electric heaters and more to Lakota familes living on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations. Many of the families had lost power due to an ice storm.

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Chickasaw Citizen

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To reserve your copy of the 2009 directory, please call (866) 466-1481. The directory can also be reserved online by visiting http://www.chickasaw.net/service-directory.

Upward Bound Students total 115 at Murray State summer session

The 2009 summer session of the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound was a great success. Approximately 115 high school and bridge students moved on to the campus of Murray State College for the month of June. The students attended on-campus classes during the day and participated in organized activities during the evenings.

Students prepared for "All Sports Day," which was held on the campus of East Central University on June 12. Upward Bound programs from around the state of Oklahoma, participated in the organized sports day with activities such as basketball, softball, volleyball and tug of war. In addition to physical activities, students have the chance to participate in academic challenges, chess and checkers. The day's activities include something for everyone. The students compete for medals, trophies and bragging rights. The Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound has a history of being the overall champions of "All Sports Day" bringing home "Best All Around" trophies four years in a row.

Students were also given opportunities to participate in history and cultural activities during the summer. During the first week of the summer session, the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe traveled to the Murray State College campus to interact with the students in a traditional dance activity. Following the Dance Troupe demonstration, the students had an ice cream social at McKee Hall. During the summer session, Mr. Luther John, a language and cultural specialist for the Chickasaw Nation, provided four sessions of Chickasaw language instruction to the students. The students also traveled to the Red Earth Festival in Oklahoma City. They watched the parade of various tribes and groups, and watched the different dance competitions throughout the day.

The math and science students took part in various math and science related field trips throughout the summer session. They traveled to the Tulsa Air and Space Museum, Noble Foundation, and Tishomingo Fish Hatchery. The math and science students also interacted with the Chickasaw Nation Robotics Team, and were taught how to program and operate Lego robots.

The summer session of 2009 promised to be one of growth, learning, fun, and opportunity for the students. Whether it was the team building and individual challenges at the Cross Point Camp or the unique educational opportunities in the classroom, the 2009 Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound students were provided unique opportunities to grow as individuals and as a group. Thank you to the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe, Chickasaw Nation Robotics Team, and the Chickasaw Nation Division of Education, Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police, Chickasaw Nation Abstinence Education Program for providing the students with cultural and educational opportunities.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE FOUNDATION

Kayla Ritter named Foundation 2009 'Student of the Year'

Kayla Ritter

Ms. Kayla Ritter has been selected Chickasaw Foundation Student of the Year for the 2008-2009. She is a recent graduate of Bray-Doyle High School and has been a member of the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound since she was a freshman. Kayla received numerous awards in high school including the perfect attendance award, top reading points, and highest grade in US History as well as being named to the principal's and superintendent's honor rolls. She was also selected to attend the leadership conference for the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound.

Kayla carries a 3.67 grade point average. She is involved in community activities such as volunteering for the Children's Fair and the Chickasaw Foundation T-ball Tournament, donating toys and food to the less fortunate and collecting goods for soldiers.

Kayla loves to spend time with her animals, enjoys plays and museums with her family and curling up with a good book.

Velma-Alma student named April 2009 'Student of the Month'

Thomas Ryals

Mr. Thomas Ryals was selected May 2009 Chickasaw Foundation Student of the Month. He is a recent graduate of Wapanucka High School.

Thomas participated in the Gifted and Talented program, honor roll, academic team and the Spanish club, as well as numerous interscholastic meets. He recently placed 2nd and 3rd in Physics and 2nd in computer programming.

Thomas' hobbies include playing the guitar and writing poetry while hanging out with his family and friends. He is a volunteer fireman at Wilson, and volunteers on the park committee to raise money for a new park in Wapanucka, with the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound at Cultural Evening and the Children's Fair.

His future goals include attending college at Southeastern Oklahoma State University before continuing his education at the University of Oklahoma. Thomas hopes to become an architect and eventually own his own firm.

Re-opening of Chickasaw Foundation Scholarships

The Chickasaw Foundation would like to announce the re-opening of the *Edward L. Kruger Memorial Ittish Aaisha Scholarship* and the *Chickasaw Foundation Career Technology Scholarship*.

The *Edward L. Kruger Memorial Ittish Aaisha Scholarship* award is $1,500 ($750 per semester.) The scholarship is open for full-time Chickasaw graduate students enrolled in pharmacy school with a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

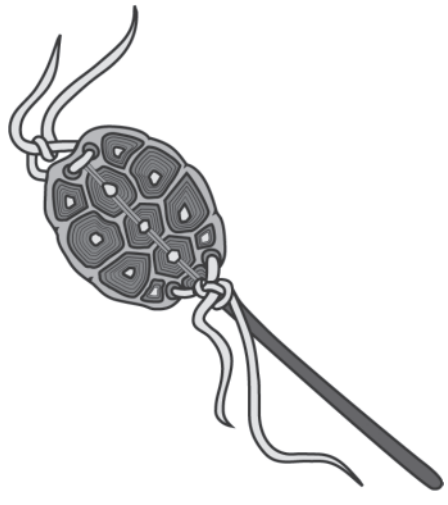
The *Chickasaw Foundation Career Technology Scholarship* is for a Chickasaw Nation employee who is at least 18 years of age and a high school graduate. The student must be attending a career technology, vo-tech or trade school and maintaining a GPA of 2.0 or higher. The award is for $1,000 ($500 per semester).

The deadline for these scholarships will be July 17, 2009. If you would like to receive an application, please contact the Chickasaw Foundation at (580)421-9030 or by email at ChickasawFoundation@chickasaw.net.

Annual Scholarship Reception scheduled for July 28 in Ada

The Chickasaw Foundation will host its 9th annual scholarship reception on July 28 at the McSwain Theater, 130 West Main in Ada, Oklahoma beginning at 6 p.m.

Scholarship awards will be presented to recipients along with a Power Point presentation and refreshments. You may RSVP by contacting the Chickasaw Foundation at chickasawfoundation@chickasaw.net or calling (580) 421-9030.



May 2009 Outstanding Achievement Award recipients

Brianna Bailey

Brianna, of Westminster, Colo., is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Citizenship.

Brianna is in the fourth grade at Lukas Elementary and was nominated by teacher Jannelle Davis.

"As a student Brianna excels in every academic area and makes sure all of her work is her best quality," said Ms. Davis. "She is responsible and dedicated."

Brianna enjoys reading and playing basketball and soccer. She recently joined the drama club and is narrator in the play "Twinderella, The Musical."

"My goals are to attend Bloomfield High School and then go to college," said Brianna.

Brandon Battice

Brandon, son of David and Gloria Battice, of Ardmore, Okla., is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Leadership.

Brandon is a freshman at Ardmore High School and was nominated by Deana Craighead.

"He goes above what is expected to succeed in the classroom and extra-curricular activities," said Ms. Craighead. "This is his first year in high school and he is proving to be a leader."

Brandon enjoys hanging out with friends, listening to music, playing sports with friends and family and sitting at home relaxing.

"I plan to go to the University of Oklahoma when I graduate to be a marine biologist and also play on the OU Sooners football team," said Brandon.

Ethan Eck

Ethan, son of John and Melissa Eck, of Ada, Okla., is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Citizenship.

Ethan Eck

Ethan is in the second grade at Latta Elementary School and was nominated by Ramona Scott.

"Ethan is well-behaved, honest, trustworthy, dependable and mannerly and relates to his peers very well," said Ms. Scott. "He exhibits all of the qualities of good character and citizenship."

Ethan enjoys swimming, playing Star-Wars, camping, movies and eating steak and shrimp. He is also involved with Upward Bound basketball and Tiger Scouts.

"I hope one day I will become an inventor and invent a laser gun, rocket boots and a light-saber," said Ethan.

Rachel Garrett

Rachel, daughter of Starla (Speaks) Garrett, of Nashville, Tenn., is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Social Studies.

Rachel is in the seventh grade at Two Rivers Middle School and was nominated by teacher Randell Bedwell.

"Rachel has exhibited leadership and compassion in my seventh grade social studies class and has provided students wonderful information on the rich history, customs and traditions of the Native American culture," said Mr. Bedwell.

Rachel is active in volleyball, basketball and track. She also enjoys swimming, riding horses, animals, music and song writing.

"I plan to maintain top grades and earn an academic or sports scholarship from a local college or university," said Rachel.

Chloe Griffin

Chloe, daughter of Greg and Suzanne Griffin, of Tulsa, is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Art.

Chloe Griffin

Chloe is in the fourth grade at Metro Christian Academy in Tulsa and was nominated by art teacher Cindy Erickson.

"Chloe was the poster contest winner for an all-school poster contest exploring the topic of healthy living," said Mrs. Erickson. "Chloe's creative and well-crafted entry was bright and eye-catching and conveyed a positive message."

Chloe enjoys drawing pictures, singing, writing stories and reading.

"When I grow up I want to be a vet because I love animals," said Chloe.

Noah Griffin

Noah, son of Greg and Suzanne Griffin, of Tulsa, is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Music.

Noah Griffin

Noah is a sixth grader at Metro Christian Academy in Tulsa and was nominated by band teacher Heath Miller

"Noah is an outstanding student who has shown a remarkable amount of musical talent," said Mr. Miller. "He has consistently performed as well or better than any beginning student I have taught."

Noah enjoys playing flight simulators. He has achieved awards for perfect attendance, placed third in a geography bee and is on the headmasters honor roll.

"I have no idea what I am going to be when I grow up, but my father thinks I should be a pilot," said Noah.

Brittany Hembree

Brittany, of Ardmore, Okla., is the May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Academics.

Brittany is in the seventh grade at Ardmore Middle School and was nominated by Donna Jones.

"Brittany tries very hard to achieve her goals," said Jones. "She is an outstanding academic student."

Brittany enjoys spending time with her dogs.

"I hope to grow up and work with animals either in the veterinary field or assist in exercising animals," said Brittany.

Chase Horton

Chase, son of Dawn and Shawn Horton, of Ada, Okla., is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award Overall.

Chase Horton

Chase is in the seventh grade at Latta Junior High and was nominated by teacher Eddie Collins.

"Chase has worked very hard and raised his grade point average this nine weeks," said Mr. Collins

Chase is involved in his youth group at Legacy Church. He is a member of the golf team, Mechanical Masterminds and Jr. Lego League.

"I plan to attend college after I graduate from high school," said Chase.

Michelle Kellner

Michelle, daughter of Shanon Shaw, of Scottsdale, Ariz., is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Art.

Michelle Kellner

Michelle is a junior at Salt River High School and was nominated by her art instructor, Niamh Savani.

"Michelle greatly enjoys visual arts and she is also willing to put forth great effort with her work," said Ms. Savani. "Michelle has proved to be very committed to her art studies and is also very active in many other school activities."

Michelle enjoys being involved in her community and dancing. She has been selected by her high school for several honors. Michelle is also SSI SCUBA certified, a SCUBA Specialty Diver in underwater environment and underwater photography, a Night Diver, and a SCUBA Rescue Diver.

"My future plans are to graduate next May and go to college," said Michelle.

Darcy Odom

Darcy, daughter of Dennis Odom and Chloe Shy, of Albuquerque, N.M., is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Art.

Darcy Odom

Darcy is a sophomore at Albuquerque Academy and was nominated by the chair of visual arts, Tim Mullane.

"Darcy has impressed me with her dedication to quality in her work and the willingness to push herself to achieve success," said Mr. Mullane. "In addition to her talent and drive in art, her maturity, playful sense of humor and kindness make her a highly valued young person."

Darcy enjoys History, Art and Japanese classes. She is active with the soccer, basketball and bowling teams and is a member of the Classic Book Club.

Jaye Odom

Jaye, daughter of Dennis Odom and Chloe Shy, of Albuquerque, N.M., is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Academics.

Jaye Odom

Jaye is a sophomore at Albuquerque Academy and was nominated by English teacher Kevin Hall.

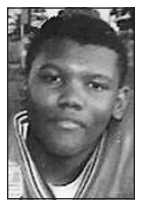
"She works very hard on every assignment," said Mr. Hall. "In addition, she is supportive of her classmates and has a wonderful sense of humor."

Jaye enjoys her English and History classes. She is also active in tennis and basketball.

"In my spare time I use poetry as an emotional release," said Jaye.

Artrice Pray

Artrice, the son of Vernoa Pray, of Clarksville, Tenn., is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award Overall.


Artrice Pray

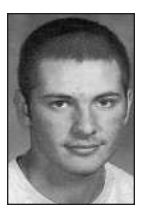
Artrice is in the eighth grade at New Providence Middle School in Clarksville, Tenn.

Artice enjoys computer technology. He is a member of the Boy Scouts of America and the National Junior Honor Society.

"I intend on attending Yale, where I will receive a master's degree in law and political science," said Artrice.

Tyler Reeves

Tyler, son of the late Steven Reeves and Brian and Tracie Reeves-Carter, of Ada, Okla., is a May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Academics.


Tyler Reeves

Tyler is a junior at Latta High School and was nominated by teacher Donnie Husband.

"Tyler is an excellent American History student," said Mr. Husband. "He works hard to do well on tests and turns in good daily work."

Tyler is active on the baseball and

SEE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, PAGE 27

Chickasaw students enjoy internship experience

Chickasaw interns participated in a three-day orientation before heading out into the work force for on-the-job training.

The Chickasaw Nation Education Division hosted the 2009 Internship Orientation May 27-29 at the Douglas H. Johnston Education building in Ada. Twenty Chickasaw students were selected for internship placement for the 2009 summer and attended the orientation before beginning work in their selected areas.

During orientation, students discussed the internship program guidelines, toured Chickasaw Nation facilities and learned Chickasaw history and language. The group also received business etiquette training, self defense training, wellness training and career development training.

Chickasaw students with Governor Bill Anoatubby during internship orientation May 27-29. Front row from left, Governor Anoatubby, Ashlee Dowdy, Shilo Rogers, Haley Honeycutt, Jared Wingo, Benjamin Colbert, Winter Bass, Sarah Bates, Rebecca Biggs, intern coordinator Chenae Lippard and Education Services director Lori Hamilton. Back row from left, Jon Vanderslice, Kris Kincheloe, John Schoolfield, Wyas Parker, James Kline, Dustin Newport, James Greenleaf, Richard Heller and Davin Watson.

"I actually participated in the internship orientation last year and was eager to attend again this year," said Southeastern Oklahoma State University senior Winter Bass. "This year several interns are not from around here and it has been great to network with them."

After orientation completion, students traveled to their designated internship sites to begin employment.

"I began my internship after finals week with Bank2 in Oklahoma City," said University of Oklahoma senior Dusty Newport. "They were ready to get me onboard and I was happy to have the opportunity to assist in the loan department. Through Bank2, I have been obtaining real, hands-on work experience."

Students in attendance were selected for internships at various locations across the U.S. Internship sites include the Department of Energy, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Department of Justice and the National Indian Education Association in Washington, D.C., the National Transportation Safety Board in Denver, the Department of Energy in Richland, Wash., and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Cleveland, as well as Chickasaw Nation facilities in Ada, Oklahoma City, Norman, and Purcell, Okla.

Through the Internship program, the tribe provides each student with a six- to eight-week internship opportunity, bi-weekly pay, one round-trip airline ticket to the intern site and housing accommodations.

The Internship program is conducted at different times throughout the year in locations determined by the Chickasaw Nation. Students apply and are selected from a selection committee and the education staff works with the student and employer to determine internship timelines and specifics.

To qualify for the program, applicants must complete an internship application and submit all documentation to the Chickasaw Nation Internship program coordinator. Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 25 and be a full-time Chickasaw college student enrolled as a sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student.

For more information, contact the Internship coordinator Chenae Lippard at (580) 421-7711, chenae.lippard@chickasaw.net or visit www.chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.

Head Start survey seeks parent comments

The Chickasaw Nation Head Start Program is seeking input from parents of young children about their needs through an on-line survey.

Completion of the survey will help Head Start teachers design curriculum to better meet the developmental, physical, emotional and cognitive needs of Chickasaw children.

Parents of three- and four-year-olds are encouraged to complete the short survey, which will be on-line for a few months.

The survey can be found on-line at www.chickasaw.net/services under the special announcements heading. Paper copies will also be available at any of the six Head Start centers in Ada, Ardmore, Duncan, Sulphur, Tishomingo and Madill.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Head Start Program office at (580) 421-7711.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations and Winter Bass, summer intern.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

basketball teams.

"In the future I plan to attend college on a scholarship to play baseball," said Tyler. "After college, I plan to get a job with the Chickasaw Nation or start my own business."

Kaytlin Tharp

Kaytlin, daughter of Keith and Lisa Tharp, of Fruitvale, Texas, is the May 2009 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Music.

Kaytlin Tharp

Kaytlin is a junior at Grace At Home Christian School and was nominated by administrator Lisa Tharp.

"Kaytlin is an outstanding student and an excellent harpist," said Tharp. "She was one of 11 students chosen to perform with the East Texas Symphony Orchestra, a professional orchestra led by Maestro Per Brevig."

Kaytlin began taking piano lessons when she was six and harp lessons at 14. She enjoys cooking, gardening, and sewing. Kaytlin is a volunteer at Trinity Mother Francis Hospital and is an assistant in the children's choir at her church as well as substitute pianist.

"I plan on attending college after graduation next year, majoring in music education," said Kaytlin.

CONTRIBUTED BY Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.

The Tribal Library announces 2009 summer programming schedule.

Monday: **book club** 3:30-5:00 p.m. for ages 6-8 (includes a free book) please call and sign up.

Tuesday: **story time** 7:00-8:00 p.m. for all ages (children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult)

Wednesday: **book club** 3:30-5:00 p.m. for ages 9-10 (includes a free book) please call and sign up.

Thursday: **movie time** 3:00-5:00 p.m. for all ages (children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult)

Saturdays: **family movie time** 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the following dates only: July 18 and August 15, 2009.

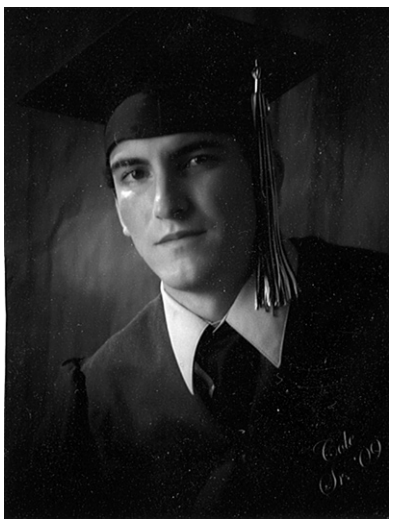
For questions or to sign up, call Jessica Conley at 580.310.6477.

Ana Kay Cunneutubby

Ana Kay Cunneutubby is a 2009 graduate of Lubbock High School, Lubbock, Texas. She is the daughter of Ricky and Alma Cunneutubby, of Lubbock.

Ana graduated with honors and plans to continue her education to major in secondary education and minor in photography.

Cole Owens

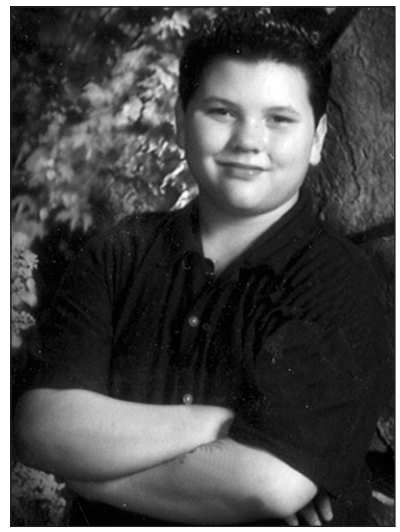


Cole Owens is a 2009 graduate of Harrah High School, Harrah, Okla. He is the son of Richard and Cleta Owens. He is the grandson of Robert and Ruth Cole. He is the great-grandson of Roberson Carlton.

Cole was a member of the varsity baseball team (left field and pitcher), basketball team and the football team. He graduated with a 3.75 grade point average. He attend Firefighting 1 course at Eastern Oklahoma Technology Center.

Cole plans to continue his education to become a paramedic and hopes to become a firefighter.

Randon Taylor Stevenson



Randon Taylor Stevenson is a 2009 graduate of Rockwall High School, Rockwall, Texas. He is the son of Mary Ann Stevenson Nail. He is the brother of Lane Nail and Michala Nail. He is the grandson of Mary Jane Ward McGaugh and Jack McGaugh.

Randon is an extremely talented musician. He plays a variety of instruments and writes lyrics. He is a very bright and talented young man. He plays in several different locations and is working steady.

Randon this is for you from all your family.

You did it! May the high school stage be the first of many stages that you will be walking on, and as you walk the shoes of an entertainer know that you are loved by everyone and that we will always be there wherever you are.

May God bless you and may all your wishes come true

We love you with all our heart and soul.

Your Mom, Mike, Lane, Michala, The Lowery Family, The Landers Family, Aunt Juanita, Christopher, Jaclyn, Delisa, Haylee and Chandler

Courtney Alisha Richison

Courtney Alisha Richison is a 2009 graduate of Hope Online Learning Academy, Denver. She is the daughter of Anthony Richison of Porum, Okla., and Trisha Kelly of Lakewood, Colo. She is the granddaughter of Jack and Janice Richison of Porum, and Joe and Linda Slaven of Lakewood. She is the great-granddaughter of Marilyn Weaver of Modesto, Calif., and the great-great-granddaughter of Ora Nichols, an original enrollee.

Way to go Courtney! We're all very proud of you!

2009 COLLEGE GRADUATES

Tiffany and Keri Adams

Chickasaw sisters recently received degrees from a Texas university.

Tiffany Michele Adams Butcher and Keri LaDawn Adams both graduated summa cum laude in May from Texas Woman's University, Denton.

Tiffany received a licensed specialist degree in school psychology. She is employed with the Dallas Independent School District.

She graduated from Midway High School in 2002 and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of North Texas in 2005.

Keri received a master of science degree in speech-language pathology. She is employed with the Denton County Special Education Cooperative.

Keri graduated from Midway High School in 2004 and earned a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from Texas Woman's University in 2007.

The graduates are the daughters of Hollis and Teresa Adams, of Henrietta, Texas.

Their grandparents are Hearl and Flora Mead, of Denison, Texas.

Susan Pualani Lewis

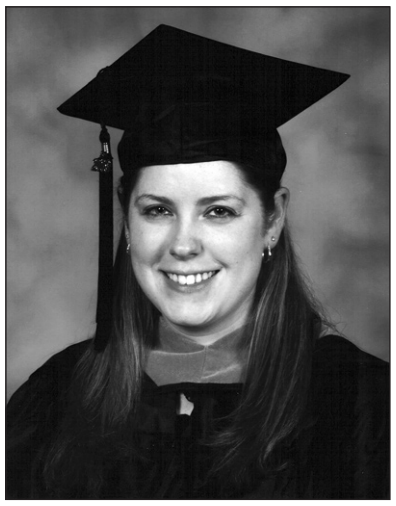
Susan Pualani Lewis, of Salinas, Calif., is a 2009 graduate of Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu. She is the daughter of Loren J. and Killy M. Lewis. She is the granddaughter of Joyce A. Lewis, of Salinas, the late Cubby E. Lewis. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Edmon Lewis, great-great-granddaughter of the late Benton Lewis and the great-great-great-granddaughter of the late Wilson Lewis, all original enrollees, and Lucy Donios, of Marina, Calif., and the late Agrefino Donios.

Susan graduated with a bachelor of social work. She is a member of Phi Alpha Honor Society for social work and a member of Pi Gamma Mu, an International Honor Society in Social Services. She will continue her studies at Hawaii Pacific University working on her master of social work.

Congratulations Susan! We are very proud of you. Continue your success for the future.

Aloha Nui Loa, the Lewis Ohana

Amy R. Powell



Amy R. Powell is a 2009 graduate of Amberton (Texas) University. She is the daughter of Joel and Ruth Powell, of Forth Worth. She is the great-granddaughter of Joel P. Powell, Sr., an original enrollee of the Chickasaw Nation.

Amy received her master of business administration degree from Amberton University and earned her bachelor of arts degree from the University of North Texas.

Matthew Murphy Chesnut

Matthew Murphy Chesnut is a 2009 graduate of the Walton School of Business. He graduated magna cum laude on May 9, 2009. He attended the University of Arkansas on an academic fellowship and graduated with a 3.9 GPA. He received an honorarium for "Best Graduate Thesis" in the Honors College.

'Connect back to family and back to tribal roots'

Cemetery archives project focuses on history, ancestral connection

FORT WASHITA - In an effort to preserve history, crews from the Chickasaw Cemetery Archives Project recently utilized high-tech equipment to identify the graves of hundreds of Confederate solders on the grounds of Fort Washita, near Durant, Okla.

A handful of men meticulously marked the cemetery with orange flags and then navigated a ground-penetrating radar over the cemetery.

The radar detects any ground disturbance, said Emil Farve, Jr., Chickasaw Cemetery Archives project coordinator.

The cemetery is the burial site of at least 200 Confederate solders, but only one headstone stands on the grounds. The soldiers were laid to rest between 1861 and 1865 when the fort housed Confederate soldiers.

Once the site work is complete, the data collected by the machinery will be loaded into a computer and analyzed. The hope is to record the burial site of most of the solders.

The current undertaking is a cooperative effort with the Oklahoma Historical Society. The mission of the overall archives project is to recover, protect and preserve the dignity and memory of the Chickasaw people by preserving a factual historic record of events.

"Little by little we are putting back together pieces of Chickasaw history."

Emil Farve, Jr.
Chickasaw Cemetery Archives Project Coordinator

"Little by little, we are putting back together pieces of Chickasaw history," said Farve.

A New Path

As impressive as the project is, the people operating the machinery and doing the legwork are even more remarkable.

All are former convicts who are now on the path to enhancing their lives though the Re-Entry program.

The archives project, in particular, gives the participants a way to "connect back to family and back to tribal roots," said Ron Parker, Chickasaw Nation Career Development Initiative and Re-Entry director.

One worker, Shane Bumpas, said his when his dad was 14 he worked at Fort Washita. Other workers have found the graves of ancestors while maintaining cemeteries in the Chickasaw Nation.

The voluntary program provides former offenders and their families the opportunity to become self-sufficient and enhance their Chickasaw identity. Benefits include education, housing, employment and career opportunities

"They have made the personal decision to change their lives," Parker said. "When they come in, they are expected to do things."

Clients are expected to re-learn employment traits such as reporting to work regularly and on time, learning to work as a team and to follow instruction.

Clients must be Chickasaw citizens and meet several eligibility requirements to be admitted into the program.

The Re- Entry and Career Development Initiative are offered through the Chickasaw Nation Division of Program Operations. The Division administrator is Pat Woods. Other programs include Transportation Services, Horticultural Department and Chickasaw Farms.

For more information about the Re-Entry program, call 580-222-2842.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Nation Re-Entry program workers, from left, Steven Moore, Jody Beal and Bobby Cass operate a ground penetrating radar at a unmarked Confederate Cemetery at Fort Washita, last month.

Fort Washita

Fort Washita was established in 1842 as the southwestern-most military post of the United States. The mission of the soldiers was to protect the Chickasaws and Choctaws, who had recently been removed to Indian Territory.

The fort was used as a Confederate post during the Civil War. After the war the federal government deeded the fort to the Chickasaw family of Abbie Davis Colbert.

The property was owned by the family until 1962 when it was acquired by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

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Campers team up at Camp Classen to learn nutrition

This year, 95 campers from across Oklahoma and Texas gathered at Camp Classen in Davis for Camp Survivor Hunali.

Camp Survivor was created to promote a healthy lifestyle through proper nutrition and exercise in a fun and positive atmosphere. The camp is open to students between the ages of 9 and 13.

"We hope that this event will encourage and teach our youth how to prevent life-altering diseases like diabetes and heart disease and foster the importance of overall wellness," said Governor Anoatubby.

Campers arrived on May 26, anxious to get started in the week's festivities. Campers participated in a variety of activities throughout the week including: hiking, fishing, canoeing, stickball, archery, nutrition education games and other activities that focused on physical activity, teamwork and culture.

Campers were divided into 10 teams and each team participated in various activities/challenges throughout the week. This year's overall team champion for Camp Survivor Hunali was Team Losa.

Staff members from all areas of the Chickasaw Nation came together to help host this year's camp that is sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation Health System and Youth and Family Division. The winner of this year's Favorite Male Counselor award was George "Ca-te" Jesse. Favorite Female Counselor was Katherine Asbery.

"The Screamer," a giant swing that lives up to its name, was voted Favorite Event by campers this year.

When asked about the most important thing they learned at camp, the overwhelming response was: "teamwork," "nutrition," and "exercise."

Norman Bradsher helps John Dennis, Jr. during a nutrition activity.

Daytin Christian and Chloe Imotichey enjoy time on the swing.

George Ca-te Jesse and Team Okchamali Shokmalali play stickball.

Dustyn Asbery rehydrates after competing in the challenge course.

Many said they would take the information learned at camp home to teach their families.

Camp Survivor is one of many camps sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation. The camp is offered at no charge to Chickasaw students thanks to revenues produced by tribal businesses.

CONTRIBUTED BY Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

Katie Mincey races toward the finish line.

Team Takolo Lakna competes in the challenge course.

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Workshops demonstrate many aspects of control

Healthy habits, proper portions at Diabetes Camp

Etta Johnson checks her blood sugar.

Shon McCage teaches a nutrition lesson to campers at the 2009 Diabetes Camp.

The Chickasaw Nation hosted Diabetes Camp June 1-5 at the Microtel Inn and Suites in Davis, Okla. Forty campers were in attendance at this year's event.

Throughout the week, campers participated in many activities aimed at educating them about diabetes. Blood sugars were checked at regular intervals each day and campers were served healthy meals throughout the week. Campers also had the opportunity to participate in many different exercise activities such as walking, aerobics and swimming.

Campers also took part in different education workshops such as: nutrition education, foot care, diabetes and the heart, psychosocial aspects of diabetes, smoking cessation and eye care.

Shon McCage, Health Promotion Specialist with the Chickasaw Nation Health System (CNHS) Diabetes Care Center, was pleased with this year's camp. "We had a really great group of people this year. They were eager to learn, asked a lot of questions and participated in all the activities. Their active level of involvement made the camp a success."

During closing ceremonies, the Most Motivating Camper award was given to Cecelia Stephens. She was voted the winner by her peers as someone who inspired and motivated them throughout the week.

When asked what their favorite part of camp was, one participant stated, "I liked it all… the health information, exercise variety, nutrition information and pool exercise." Another camper praised the staff for their "caring and enthusiasm" and said, "I fully appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the camp experience."

Diabetes is a disease that affects the body's ability to produce and properly use insulin. Insulin is needed to convert sugar, starches and other foods into energy. Type 2 diabetes is the most common type of diabetes affecting Native Americans. Many complications are associated with diabetes including heart disease, kidney disease, and eye and foot complications. For more information on the Diabetes Camp or the CNHS Diabetes Care Center, please call (580) 421-4532.

CONTRIBUTED BY Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

J.B. Capehart and grandson, Russell Hudson, learn proper portion control.

Robert and Lucille Keith participate in a nutrition lesson.

Family Fun Run/Walks

Ada – August 1
Family Life Center
7 a.m.-11 a.m.

Tishomingo- August 1
Tishomingo Boys and Girls Club
8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Plan to attend the Fun Run/Walk events with your family and friends to help increase physical activity.

For more information on the Family Fun Run/Walk events, please contact Ada- (580) 310-9661 or Tishomingo-(580) 387-2711.

CONTRIBUTED BY Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

Get Fresh! healthy food preparation program sets classes for area cities

Ada Nutrition Services, 518 E. Arlington
July 7: 10 a.m. and noon
July 9: 10 a.m. and noon
July 14: 10 a.m. and noon
July 16: 10 a.m. and noon
August 4: 10 a.m. and noon
August 6: 10 a.m. and noon
August 11: 10 a.m. and noon
August 13: 10 a.m. and noon
For more information, call (580) 272-5506.

Ada Family Life/Wellness Center, 229 W. Seabrook
July 8: 10 a.m. and noon
July 15: 10 a.m. and noon
July 16: 6 p.m.
August 5: 10 a.m. and noon
August 12: 10 a.m. and noon
August 13: 6 p.m.
For more information, call (580) 272-5506.

Ardmore Nutrition Services, 2350 Chickasaw Blvd.
July 7: 10 a.m. and noon
July 8: 10 a.m. and noon
July 14: 10 a.m. and noon
July 15: 10 a.m. and noon
August 4: 10 a.m. and noon
August 5: 10 a.m. and noon
August 11: 10 a.m. and noon
August 12: 10 a.m. and noon
For more information, call (580) 226-8289.

Purcell Nutrition Services, 1530 Hardcastle Blvd.
July 7: 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.
July 10: 10 a.m. and noon
July 14: 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.
July 17: 10 a.m. and noon
August 4: 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.
August 7: 10 a.m. and noon
August 11: 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m.
August 14: 10 a.m. and noon
For more information, call (405) 527-6967.

These exciting cooking shows are free and open to the public and demonstrate healthy cooking for the entire family! Leave with recipes, nutrition education and new ideas to cook healthier every day! Classes offered on each day feature the same recipes during the times of availability.

CONTRIBUTED BY Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

Full-time positions open at Chickasaw Nation Health System

The Chickasaw Nation Health System has full-time, immediate openings within the tribal boundaries for qualified medical personnel in the following specialties:

- 1 Physical Therapist, Ada
- 1 Internal Medicine Physician, Ada
- 1 Family Practice Physician, Ada
- 1 Psychiatrist, Ada

For details on any of the professional positions listed above, please contact:

Ronnie Shaw, Professional Recruiter
Chickasaw Nation Health System
(580) 272-7272 ronnie.shaw@chickasaw.net
Beth Campbell, Staff Recruiter
Chickasaw Nation Health System
(580) 272-7320 beth.campbell@chickasaw.net

'More Color, More Flavor, More Life!'

WIC nutrition choices enhanced

The Chickasaw Nation Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) will implement a new food package beginning in August. The new food package offers many exciting options.

The campaign developed to introduce the new foods is entitled "More Color, More Flavor, More Life!" New foods offered include whole grain bread and other whole grain products, canned beans, fruits and vegetables, soy milk, canned fish and tofu. New food options will be offered in addition to current foods which include milk, cheese, dry beans/peas, peanut butter, eggs, cereal and juice. For the first time, infants will also receive infant food fruits and vegetables and infant food meats.

The WIC program serves approximately 4,000 women, infants and children each month. WIC is a short-term intervention program designed to influence lifetime nutrition and health behaviors in a targeted, high-risk population. In addition to the special food package offered through the program, WIC also provides nutrition education and breastfeeding promotion and support through registered dietitians and breastfeeding peer counselors.

WIC provides cost savings to qualifying families, helps to ensure normal growth for infants and children, reduces levels of anemia, increases immunization rates, improves access to regular health care/social services and improves diets.

To be eligible for WIC, participants' income level must be at or below 185% of the poverty level or on Medicaid and have one documented nutritional risk. Children are eligible for WIC until they reach their fifth birthday.

For more information about the WIC program, please call 1-888-436-7255.

WIC is an equal opportunity provider.

CONTRIBUTED BY Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

Easy Strawberry Mousse

(Serves 10)
Ingredients:
1 pkg. (8oz.) fat free cream cheese, softened
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup boiling water
1 pkg. (4-serving size) strawberry flavored sugar/fat-free gelatin
1/2 cup cold water
2 cups thawed fat-free whipped topping, divided
2 cups sliced strawberries
Directions:
BEAT cream cheese and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on low speed until well blended; set aside.
STIR boiling water into dry gelatin mix in small bowl at least 2 min. until completely dissolved. Add cold water; stir until slightly thickened. Gradually add to cream cheese mixture, beating after each addition until well blended. Gently stir in 1-1/2 cups of the whipped topping and the strawberries.
SPOON evenly into 10 small dessert dishes. Refrigerate at least 1 hour or until firm. Top each with a dollop of the remaining whipped topping just before serving. Store leftovers in refrigerator.

Nutritional Information per serving: Calories 70, Total fat 2.5g, Saturated fat 2g, Cholesterol 5mg, Sodium 190mg, Total Carbohydrate 9g, Dietary Fiber 1g, Protein 4g

Sen. Paddack honored for work on state teachers' retirement system

State Sen. Susan Paddack was recently honored by the Oklahoma Retired Educators Association (OREA), who presented her with the "Friend of Retired Educators" award. Sen. Paddack has been an advocate for legislation creating parity between the teachers' retirement system and other state-funded retirement systems.

Sen. Susan Paddack

"These men and women devoted their lives to helping generations of Oklahomans to have the best and brightest future possible," Sen. Paddack said. "We owe it to them to ensure their pension system is strong, and that their cost-of-living adjustments are on a par with other systems. It's simply the right thing to do."

Sen. Paddack conducted an interim study last fall on cost of living issues and the teachers' retirement system. Following the study, Sen. Paddack filed legislation in the 2009 session calling for an incremental approach to achieve parity in teacher's cost-of-living adjustments over a multi-year period. The measure was approved unanimously in the Senate.

Although it was not heard by the House of Representatives, the bill remains alive for the 2010 session.

"We have about 45,000 retired educators in Oklahoma, and I'm proud to speak on their behalf at the State Capitol," Sen. Paddack said. "Although the national recession has certainly curtailed our resources at the present time, things will turn around. That's why it is important to continue this discussion and be prepared to act on crucial retirement legislation once our economic conditions have turned the corner."

Sen. Paddack is a Democrat representing Oklahoma's Senate District 42, which includes Ada and the surrounding area.

Oklahoma City Community Council

The Metro OKC Chickasaw Community Council recently conducted its June Celebration AKA Annual Picnic. Our focus was "Fun for Kids and Adults." There was a number of games for the kids. From all accounts everyone enjoyed the festivities. A silent auction was held for all age groups from items donated by individuals and businesses.

There were 122 people in attendance, which included about 40 kids. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful food catered by End of Main from Watonga.

The evening was topped off by a presentation from the Chickasaw Lighthorse Police Department. The kids were able to go outside and personally inspect the hummer. The drug dog demonstrated his talents as well. "What a great evening."

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 7. All area Chickasaws are invited to come at 6 p.m. for dinner. The menu will be fried chicken and salads. At 7 p.m., our speaker will be Beth Alexadner, Chickasaw Legislature from Panola District. We hope to see everyone there!

We meet at LakePointe Towers, which is located at 4005, NW Expressway, Suite 600, Oklahoma City.

Pacific Northwest Community Council

If you haven't yet heard, Chickasaw citizens of the Pacific Northwest are bringing their families and meeting July 25! Due to high interest, and with the support of the Chickasaw Nation, Oregon and Washington are now forming the region's first Chickasaw Community Council.

Meetings will be Quarterly, with the first at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, July 25, in the Clackamas Room at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion, in Portland, Oregon. Northwest Chickasaw citizens will meet to define the new council as well as participate in activities and future planning. With beverages and light refreshments provided, it's sure to be a great time for all.

Joining us will be Michelle Cooke, Director of the Library, Archives and Collections Department in Ada, Okla. We are honored to have Michelle visit and speak about genealogy and the Chickasaw Cultural Center. She is originally from Plano, Texas, and began working for the tribe in July of 2007 in the Division of Education. She has been with the Division of History and Culture since October 2007 and finds it fascinating to hear tribal histories and collect old family photographs for the archives.

For more information about the July 25 council meeting and/or to RSVP, please contact planning team member Janis Bell at pnwcc@centurytel.net or call (360) 686-0540.

Come one, come all and celebrate your heritage – see you there!

Johnston County Community Council

The Johnston County Community Council conducted its meeting on July 15 and had an especially good time with all members and our guest.

Speakers for the evening were Dinah Worcester and Amber Underwood from the Department of Libraries, Archives and Collections, and Genealogy. They gave a presentation, which was very informative for everyone.

Members told stories of times past in finding relatives. Food and door prizes concluded the meeting, looking forward to seeing you next month.

North Texas Community Council

The North Texas Community Council had its monthly meeting on June 20.

The council enjoyed our speaker Dinah Worcester Who gave us helpful tips on researching Chickasaw genealogy and family history. We always enjoy snacks, cold drinks and a door prize drawing and visiting with each other and hope to see new friends each month.

We will not have a July meeting but watch The Chickasaw Times and your mailbox for the time and location of the next meeting.

For more information, contact John Atkins, chairperson, at (972) 271-0692 or injunjon@verizon.net.

CHICKASAW COMMUNITY COUNCILS and EVENTS

For a complete listing of Chickasaw Nation camps, academies and other events visit www.chickasaw.net

OKLAHOMA

ADA

Chipota Chikashshanompoli (Chickasaw language club for children ages three to 12)
July 18, (580) 272-5310

Children's Reading Day at the Farmers' Market
July 22, (580) 559-0777

"I Love My Child" Walk in the Park
August 15, (580) 436-3419

ARDMORE

Children's Reading Day at the Farmers' Market
July 8, (580) 222-2893

Children's Reading Day at the Farmers' Market
July 15, (580) 222-2893

CONNERVILLE

Connerville Area Chickasaw Community Council
2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Tony Poe, (580) 421-4994

KINGSTON

Chickasaws of Texoma Community Council
4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
Ruth McAdoo, (580) 564-6803

Marshall County Chickasaw Community Council
2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Sarah Lea, (580) 564-4570

KULLIHOMA

Stomp Dance
August 21, (580) 332-8685

NEWCASTLE

Northern Pontotoc Chickasaw Community Council
2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Todd Griffith, (405) 615-1303

OKLAHOMA CITY

OKC Metro Chickasaw Community Council
1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Linda O'Hagan, (405) 350-3311

PURCELL

Purcell Chickasaw Community Council
4th Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

SULPHUR

Children's Reading Day at the Farmers' Market
July 10, (580) 222-2893

Children's Reading Day at the Farmers' Market
July 17, (580) 222-2893

TISHOMINGO

Johnston County Chickasaw Community Council
3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Ann Fink, (580) 371-3351

CALIFORNIA

Inland Empire/Desert Cities Chickasaw Community Council
Lynn M. Dorrough, (909) 213-7273

Sacramento Chickasaw Citizen Connection
Chickasaw Outreach 866-466-1481

COLORADO

Chickasaw Community Council of Colorado
Quarterly Meetings
Stephen Bingham, (303) 377-4637

KANSAS

Chickasaw Community Council of Wichita
3rd Sunday at 3:00 p.m.
Lynn Stumblingbear, (316) 945-9219 or Pam Harjo, (316) 393-0696

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly Meetings
Vadare Cornelison, (505) 332-1776

OREGON/WASHINGTON

Pacific Northwest Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly meetings
Janis Bell, (360) 686-0540

TEXAS

Chickasaw Community Council of South Texas
San Antonio, TX Area
Michele Moody, (210) 492-2288

Chickasaw Community Council of Central Texas
Austin, Texas Area
2nd Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Gene Thompson, (512) 258-7919

North Texas Chickasaw Community Council
Dallas/Fort Worth Area, TX
3rd Saturday at 2:00 p.m.
John C. Atkins, (972) 271-0692

Kindling a small flame

The Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program

BY RICHARD GREEN | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The threat that the Chickasaw language will one day become extinct comes into sharper focus when these three almost indigestible facts are considered:

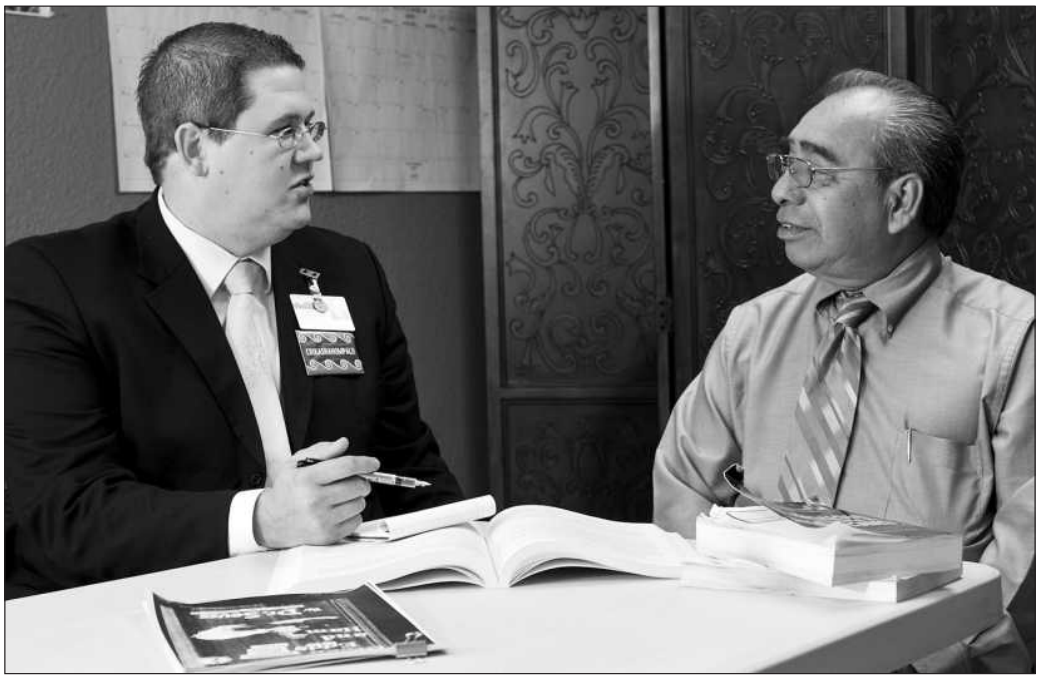
--the youngest native Chickasaw speaker is 55;

--the population of native speakers has been dying at a rate of one per month;

--and only somewhat more than 100 of them remain.

At this rate, no native speakers would exist within a decade.

The gravity of the situation has been apparent for years. Soon after Overton James became Governor of the Chickasaw Nation in 1963, he was telling his mother, Vinnie May Humes and her husband, Reverend Jess Humes, that they simply *had* to compile a Chickasaw dictionary. He feared that the language could become extinct in his lifetime, and he didn't want it said, even after he was dead and gone, that he had recognized the threat and done nothing about it. The dictionary, he felt, would be an essential first step in preserving the language.



Joshua Hinson, left, has been directing the Language Revitalization Program with the help of a dwindling number of native Chickasaw speakers like Stan Smith, right, who also serves as Hinson's language mentor.

Jess Humes did not live to see the dictionary completed but Mrs. Humes received the first copy when it was printed in 1971. While that dictionary and a much more comprehensive analytical volume by Catherine Willmond and Pamela Munro preserve the language in their pages, speakers have continued to dwindle to a precious few.

This is not happening in isolation. According to the National Geographic Society, nearly half of the world's 7,000 current, distinct languages are likely to disappear this century, with an average of one lost every two weeks!

Will Chickasaw be among them? When I started recording oral histories of tribal elders in the 1990s, I asked each Chickasaw speaker, "Can you envision a world without a single fluent Chickasaw speaker?" Although most prefaced their answer by saying how much they didn't want to believe it could happen, they had to admit that when their generation died off the spoken language would go with them.

It was sad for all of them to contemplate, but what could they do as they were nearing the end of their lives? At that time, I recall Chickasaw employees being encouraged to greet one another in Chickasaw—*Chinchokma*!—and to learn and use the Chickasaw word of the day.

It seemed like an inadequate, ultimately futile gesture. But gestures have their place in society, and one value is to keep attention on things that matter. In the case of the Chickasaw language, these gestures and modest initiatives along with support from some of the few living Chickasaw speakers helped keep the embers of hope alive until tribal government could muster the resources to kindle a small flame. That is the Chickasaw Language Program.

Its background and a major component, the master-apprentice program, are examined in this article while Part Two will deal with the program's other elements and how you can become involved at some level.

***

The first stage of the tribe's revitalization program began in 2007, when Joshua D. Hinson became its director. He brought attributes to the program that were essential to moving it along. He already had administrative experience as director of museums, but just as important were his enthusiasm, sense of urgency and humor, and passion to learn to speak and promote the Chickasaw language.

Hinson began studying Chickasaw in 2000, and met native speaker JoAnn Ellis in 2002 or 2003 and began asking her for spoken translations ranging from words and simple sentences to more complicated forms of expression. He met other speakers at cultural events and "bugged them as well." He might have begun out of curiosity, but after his son, Levi, was born, he got more serious so that he would be able to offer him the potential gift of teaching him their native language. By 2007, he had made amazing progress in picking up conversational Chickasaw.

That fall, after receiving from the tribe an award for Best Master's Thesis, he thanked the tribe for the award at the awards' banquet by speaking without notes for more than five minutes, only in Chickasaw. The Chickasaw speakers in the audience were proud of him and many of those who didn't speak Chickasaw were amazed and quite impressed, witnessing this large white man saying things they didn't understand.

But white only applied to his appearance. For by then, Hinson no longer thought of himself "as a white person who is part Chickasaw, but a Chickasaw who is part white." He felt that learning and participating in his language and culture had given him a greater Chickasaw cultural identity than he ever thought possible.

Part of the reason for Hinson's progress in the language was because he actually was a student in the program before he became its director. In fact, odd as it may seem, he was still a student in the program he directs until this July.

The first stage of the tribe's language revitalization program was patterned after a master-apprentice program researched and designed by linguist Leanne Hinton of the University of California at Berkeley.

The idea is to pair fluent native speakers, called masters with apprentices. By definition, apprentices want to learn a skill, in this case, to speak conversational Chickasaw. JoAnn Ellis was one of the initial masters. Not only was Chickasaw her first language, she was also the only master who was a certified teacher, having taught in the Tupelo, OK schools. Her father was bilingual and her mother mainly spoke Chickasaw but Chickasaw was spoken nearly exclusively in the home in Ahloso, then Tupelo. In fact, when JoAnn's grandparents heard her speaking English, they would tell her: "*Chikashsha chiya. Chikashshanompoli.*"(You are Chickasaw. Speak Chickasaw.)

Hinson was among the first group of apprentices. He was selected for the program, as were most of the others, because of prior experience with the language. Hinson had been learning conversational Chickasaw on his own. Others never learned to speak the language well or spoke it only as young children, but understood conversational Chickasaw because it was spoken by their parents in the home. They are termed passive bilinguals, Hinson says.

Like Hinson, Chickasaw legislator and Sulphur attorney Scott Colbert also had been working at learning words and phrases. Despite his busy schedule, he felt like he could not and should not pass up the opportunity to improve his conversational ability by joining the program and working with Chickasaw master, Tishomingo resident, Luther John.

Because of the participants' previous experience, the leadership felt that the normal 36-month duration of the master-apprentice program could be completed in 18 months. That jibed with the Nation's sense of urgency: time for producing new speakers was running out. This objective was and is taken quite seriously. That is why the tribe pays all participants for their time (up to 10 hours per week), and why the graduates of the program are expected to teach on some level.

"The department doesn't have resources to keep all the graduates on the payroll indefinitely," Hinson says. "We want people to take their language to heart, to teach irrespective of whom is paying them or whether they are paid or not. This could be teaching a child, grandchild, spouse or an informal class in the community."

How seriously they take this commitment remains to be seen. Program coordinator Vicki Penner, also an apprentice, says 13 apprentices from the first two groups will graduate at a ceremony this summer. What is hoped, she says, is that a graduate of the program occasionally will ignite a spark in someone who will do what is necessary to become a conversational speaker.

While graduating from the program is quite a remarkable accomplishment, only two, Hinson and Col-

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LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

bert, are truly conversational speakers. Even so, Hinson says he knows he will never speak with the fluency of Stan or JoAnn. "But, my goal is to get close."

***

Observing Hinson and his master teacher, Stanley Smith, together in one of their sessions (they meet most weekdays at 7 a.m. and noon), you see how successful the program can be. As is the norm, they speak almost exclusively in Chickasaw at this lunch-time session at the program's offices near downtown Ada. Joshua is trying to translate into Chickasaw a presumably ancient tribal story which ironically was always told in Chickasaw by previous generations of tribal people.

It is a story of how raccoon got rings on his tail. Many Chickasaws know the story but only in English. After Joshua finishes the written translation, then Chickasaws can read and learn it, and then--having come full circle—tell the story in its original language. Think of their activity as a reclamation project.

Like JoAnn Ellis, Stan's first language was Chickasaw. But unlike her, it was his only language until he entered first grade at Gerty, OK. There he found he had a big problem. "Not knowing any English, I looked like a dummy to my classmates, mixing up my yeses and nos, and often getting sent to the principal's office because I didn't understand what they were telling me. It was terrible."

After learning English, Stan continued to speak Chickasaw, and he has his whole life except for the two years in the Army in Germany, and three years at the Sequoyah Indian school in Tahlequah. That might seem odd, his not speaking Chickasaw in a school for Indians, but Stan says the boarding school had an unwritten, but highly punitive rule against students' speaking their native languages.

Joshua begins translating aloud and also writes the translation in a notebook. This is something his 18th century Chickasaw ancestors couldn't do because they lacked a written language. Stan follows along, nodding approval or correcting or amplifying. As they work, they consult both the Humes dictionary and the Munro-Willmond edition of the Chickasaw dictionary. "Our remaining Chickasaw speakers are a diverse group of people, each reflecting their families' unique way of speaking the language. We do our best to promote this diversity in our program. There isn't a "right" or "wrong" way to speak Chickasaw. Similarly, there isn't a "right" or "wrong" way to spell Chickasaw. Ours is an oral language, so ultimately it is up to each individual Chickasaw person to determine how they want to speak and spell their language. This language is a birthright for all Chickasaw people. We are simply here to help people access that birthright," Hinson says. "The Chickasaw Language Committee and the Chickasaw Language Program use both dictionaries as well as the new grammar from Pam and Catherine, Let's Speak Chickasaw: Chikashshanompa' Kilanompoli', which is a fantastic resource as well. We are thrilled to have it and are using it regularly in our classes.

Apparently there is no obvious Chickasaw word for the ring on the raccoon's tail. They talk about some possibilities and Stan settles on one. Josh repeats it and writes it down. Do they think they are reciting the story in Chickasaw the way their ancestors did? For the most part, Stan says, but of course they can't be sure. They think about, but don't worry about such considerations.

Obviously, there are a lot of words in English that never existed in Chickasaw. "We create new vocabulary through a consensus reached by the language committee, composed of about 25 active Chickasaw speakers," Hinson says. For the thoroughly modern among you, a computer is *tali' lopi'* which translates to metal brain. Cell phone is *talaanompa' ishtaa'*. Blackberry is *Bissa' Losa'*. Hinson tells me he can't spell very well on his *Bissa' Losa'*.

Despite the apparent fluency of their session, Hinson says that at this still early stage of the language program's development very few of the apprentices will become fluent speakers. Why? "It is very difficult, if not impossible, for most adults to learn a new language when they are not fully immersed in it," Hinson says. "The master-apprentice course comes first for us because it is, in one sense, the screening vehicle for an eventual full language immersion program. Immersion is the only way our language can be learned and saved."

"It's been demonstrated," he says, "by the Hawaiians, the Maoris of New Zealand, the Blackfeet in Montana and Canada, and closer to home, by the Cherokees in Tahlequah. So models exist, but none of them is perfect for us. Hawaiians on the island of Nihue essentially speak only Hawaiian. We don't have that kind of advantage. Where would you go on any given day to speak Chickasaw or hear it spoken?"

Furthermore, the Cherokees have an estimated 6,500 conversational speakers, so there are plenty of people to staff their program. And yet, it's inspiring for the Chickasaw language program staff to know that the Cherokee immersion program has produced 63 children who are now fluent speakers. They have the opportunity to remain fluent for life and to teach their children Cherokee.

But the development of an immersion program isn't the tribe's goal today, Hinson says. Developing new conversational adult speakers and increasing the numbers of Chickasaws who are willing and able to participate in some language-related activity or class are the goals. And you might be surprised to learn the numbers of people who have expressed interest in one or more of the diversity of language offerings--even among those who will never be apprentices, as the vast majority of them will not.

Those will be the subjects of Part II, which will appear next month. Among them are Chickasaw language courses for obtaining high school and university credit and summer language camps for families and one which is associated with sporting events. For more independent study, language enrichment is available on the tribe's website and language DVDs, representing the consolidation and organization of more than 20 years of Chickasaw language material, may be obtained from the program.

Last, but not least, the program makes available to groups of tribal members, a high-tech gizmo called a Phrasealator. You speak English, it translates what you've said into Chickasaw. *Álhlhika*! "(Really!)

*****

Richard Green may be reached at richard.green@Chickasaw.net or 405.947.5020.

Wichita Community Council

WICHITA, Kan. - Members of the Chickasaw Community Council of Wichita heard and saw two presentations at the June meeting at the Mid-America All Indian Center.

First, Vickye Gordon, the council's liaison with the Chickasaw Nation, explained and showed results of her genealogical search for data on her family. She told how she went on the internet and gathered names, dates and information on the family of her ancestor Ayakatabi (Ayakatubby). And she displayed a family tree printed on a color printer.

She also answered questions on her research methods.

Then, council members viewed the video of Pearl Scott, the pioneer Chickasaw woman aviator, who is also the subject of a recently published book.

Also on display was the book "Let's Speak Chickasaw, Chickashshanompa' Kilanompoli'," written by Pam Munro and Catherine Willmond, who also authored an analytical Chickasaw dictionary.

The new book is a grammar text book with exercises at the end of each segment of instruction. It can be bought from the University of Oklahoma Press, amazon.com or through bookstores.

Sixteen persons attended the meeting. The next meeting will be at 3 p.m. July 19, at the Mid-America All Indian Center.

Lynn Stumblingbear, Council chair, also reminded that volunteers are needed for the Council's annual picnic in October and urged members to contact Joyce Barnes, the picnic coordinator, to volunteer.

Independence Hall Association reprises Piomingo-Washington article at *ushistory.org*

BY RICHARD GREEN | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The article in the June *Times* on the 1794 meeting of Chief Piomingo and President George Washington now may be accessed on the website of the Independence Hall Association (IHA) of Philadelphia. IHA is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1942 to spearhead the creation of Independence National Historical Park in the historic district of Philadelphia.

Since then, the association has played a role in the development of the park, including a planned exhibit now under construction of the President's House on the location where it existed during Washington's presidency and the first two years of the John Adams' Administration.

Piomingo met President Washington at the President's House on July 11, 1794, and the meeting was described in the journal of future U.S. president John Quincy Adams.

The IHA owns the website *ushistory.org*, which supports the association's mission to educate the public about the Revolutionary and Colonial eras of American history. The article on Piomingo and George Washington's meeting may be accessed at ushistory.org by clicking on the President's House and then the article. According to IHA historian Edward Lawler, Jr., *ushistory.org* receives some 800,000 hits per month.

Accompanying the article is a photo of William Beckwith's magnificent statue of Piomingo. The statue, erected near City Hall in Tupelo, Miss., is within about two miles of Piomingo's housesite in the 18th century tribal settlement known as Long Town. Other accompanying photos include President Washington, Secretary of War Henry Knox, and the New House where Chickasaw-U.S. negotiations were conducted.

Also pictured are the floor plan layout of the President's House and a map of the Chickasaw Nation as it existed in 1794.

***

Readers may contact Richard Green at Richard.green@Chickasaw.net or 405-947-5020.

APRIL 2009 RESOLUTIONS

General Resolution Number 26-045

Authorization for Granting of Real Property in Murray County

Explanation: This resolution authorizes the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, or his designee, to conclude the granting of said property, free and clear, from the Chickasaw Nation to the Housing Authority of the Chickasaw Nation for use in accordance with the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).

Property described as follows:

A part of the NE¼ of Section 33, Township 1 North, Range 3 East of the Indian Meridian, Murray County, Oklahoma, and being more particularly described as follows: the East 87.0 feet of the West 528.0 feet of the S½SE¼SW¼NE¼ of said Section 33, together with all improvements thereon, if any, in their present condition, ordinary wear and tear excepted.

Property Location: 18th Street Sulphur, OK 73086

Use: To be utilized as an activity site for the NAHASDA program.

Presented by: Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number 26-046

To Correct General Resolution 22-037

(Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Murray County)

Explanation: This Resolution re-affirms and corrects General Resolution 22-037 for the purpose of specifically and correctly identifying the real property described in said General Resolution as follows:

See Exhibit "A" attached

Property Location: Murray County

Use: Parking

Purpose: Economic Development

Presented by: Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number 26-047

Right-Of-Way Easement in Pontotoc County

Explanation: This resolution authorizes and approves a Right-of-Way Easement granted to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the purpose of addressing drainage issues and the reconstruction of a bridge. This easement would provide ODOT with the land necessary for this construction. Without this easement ODOT will not have sufficient space for the construction of their drainage structure and bridge.

Property Location: Pontotoc County, Oklahoma

Use: Easement to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Presented by: Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number 26-048

Oil and Gas Lease in Sequoyah and LeFlore Counties

Arkansas Riverbed

Explanation: This resolution approves an Oil and Gas Lease in favor of Westphal Oil and Gas, Inc., (Westphal) 109 North 6th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901. Westphal has agreed to compensation of a royalty rate of 4.375% for the next ten years for certain producing wells under an oil and gas lease. After the term of ten years the royalty rate will be reduced to a rate of 3.125%. The land to be leased is more particularly described as Section 12, Township 10 North, Range 26 East, USA in Trust, LeFlore and Sequoyah Counties, Oklahoma, containing 43.87 acres more or less, for a primary term of three (3) years. The royalty rate to be paid pursuant to the Oil and Gas Lease is separate and apart from any damages associated with Westphal's prior trespass; such trespass action is subject to a settlement outside of this resolution, and outside of this lease.

Presented by: Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number – 26-049

Approval of Application for Funding – U.S. Indian Health Service Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH) 6 Grant

Funding opportunity HHS–2010–IHS–NARCH-VI–0001, Catalog of

Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers: 93.933.

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for funding to the Department of Health and Human Services for researching, planning, piloting and establishing a family resource center for the Chickasaw Nation through a U.S. Indian Health Service Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH) 6 Grant.

Award Information: The grant award amount is up to $1,100,000 per year, for up to four years.

Methods: The Chickasaw Nation Health Service would approve prospective research projects through the tribal Institutional Review Board, and collaborate with the University of Oklahoma to facilitate and complete such projects.

SEE **RESOLUTIONS,** PAGE 39

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

June 8, 2009

Present: Wanda Blackwood Scott, Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Linda Briggs

Health Committee

June 8, 2009

Present: Mary Jo Green, Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Dean McManus, Linda Briggs

Absent: Scott Colbert

Human Resources Committee

June 8, 2009

Present: Connie Barker, Katie Case, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz

Land Development Center

June 8, 2009

Present: David Woerz, Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

Legislative Committee

June 8, 2009

Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Connie Barker, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

Absent: Tim Colbert, Scott Colbert

2007-2008 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District

Seat #

1. Holly Easterling
   105 Thompson Drive
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 399-4002
   holly.easterling@chickasaw.net
2. Open
3. Katie Case
   14368 County Road 3597
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 421-9390
4. Dean McManus
   5980 CR 3430
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 759-3407
5. Mary Jo Green
   2000 E. 14th Place
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 332-2394

Pickens District

Seat #

1. David Woerz
   P.O. Box 669
   Ardmore, OK 73402
   (580) 504-0160
2. Connie Barker
   509 SW 7th Ave.
   Marietta, OK
   (580) 276-5420
3. Linda Briggs
   400 NW 4th
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 276-3493
4. Wanda Blackwood Scott
   Route 1, Box 42
   Elmore City, OK 73433
   (580) 788-4730
   scottdes@telepath.com

Tishomingo District

Seat #

1. D. Scott Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 622-3960
2. Tim Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 993-2818
3. Steven Woods
   4736 Chickasaw Trail
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 622-3523

Panola District

Seat #

1. Beth Alexander
   Box 246
   Achille, OK 74720
   (580) 283-3409
   bethalexander22@hotmail.com

LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
David Stout Building
Ada, Oklahoma
May 15, 2009

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Linda Briggs called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2ROLL CALL

Members present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms, Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel, Marilyn Coltz, Administrative Assistant

Guests present: Michael T. Watson, Wilma Pauline Stout Watson, Traile G. Glory, Michael L. Wingo, Tom Bolitho, Wyas Parker, Deanna Kendall, Jerry Imotichey

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Ms. Green.

AGENDA ITEM #4 READING OF MINUTES - April 17, 2009

A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Easterling to approve the April 17, 2009, minutes.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

13 yes votes

The motion to approve the minutes of April 17, 2009, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Steve Woods

Permanent Resolution Number 26-008, Amendments to Title 16, Chapter 3 Section 16-302 of the Chickasaw Nation Code (Format for Resolutions)

This resolution amends a section in Title 16 so that an explanation page shall be attached to all resolutions, but not be a part of the officially adopted language. This resolution also provides that a sample explanation page be included as an appendix to Title 16 of the Chickasaw Nation Code.

A motion was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve PR26-008.

A motion was made by Dr. Goforth Parker and seconded by Ms. Easterling to table PR26-008.

Mrs. Alexander inquired the reason for the motion to table. Chairperson Briggs stated it was at the request of administration to table the resolution.

Members voting yes: Connie Barker, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

11 yes votes

Members voting no: Beth Alexander, Katie Case

2 no votes

The motion to table PR26-008 carried.

Mr. Woods concluded his report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Holly Easterling

Ms. Easterling announced the date and time for the annual budget meeting and concluded her report.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Dean McManus

General Resolution Number 26-041, Gubernatorial Reappointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society, Ms. Debbie Jackson

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Ms. Debbie Jackson to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society. Ms. Jackson will fill an unexpired term of office ending on October 1, 2011.

A motion was made by Ms. McManus and seconded by Ms. Wanda Blackwood Scott to approve GR26-041.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

3 yes votes

The motion to approve GR26-041 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 26-042, Gubernatorial Reappointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society, Ms. Mary Hartley

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Ms. Mary Hartley to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society. Ms. Hartley will fill an unexpired term of office ending on October 1, 2011.

A motion was made by Ms. McManus and seconded by Ms. Green to approve GR26-042.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

13 yes votes

The motion to approve GR26-042 carried unanimously.

Ms. McManus concluded her report.

LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Judy Goforth Parker

General Resolution Number 26-043, Quit Claim Deed for the Purpose of Clearing Title Defect

At this time the Chickasaw Nation is preparing to place this tract of land into trust status with the United States. The United States will not accept this tract into trust with an existing fence encroachment within. In order to maintain a friendly and good neighbor relationship, it is recommended that a 0.03 acre strip of this parcel be conveyed to the adjoining property owner in order to negate any dispute of adverse possession. This resolution authorizes and approves the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation to execute a Quit Claim Deed which sets out the legal description of the 0.03 acres associated with the property.

A motion was made by Ms. McManus and seconded by Ms. Wanda Blackwood Scott to approve GR26-043.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

13 yes votes

The motion to approve GR26-043 carried unanimously.

Dr. Goforth Parker concluded her report.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Wanda Blackwood Scott

No report.

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Mary Jo Green

Ms. Green reported that Mr. Bill Lance and Dr. Judy Goforth Parker gave a report at the Health Care Committee meeting. Ms. Green concluded her report.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Scott Colbert

General Resolution Number 26-040, Approval of Request to Use Likeness of the Great Seal of the Chickasaw Nation (Trail of Tears Association)

This resolution approves the request of the Arkansas Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association to use the likeness of the Great Seal of the Chickasaw Nation on educational panels placed at historical sites in the State of Arkansas. The panels will be for the purpose of educating the public about Chickasaw history. The Arkansas Chapter has offered to allow the Chickasaw Nation to review the panels before they go to final printing. The request letter and samples of completed panels are attached hereto. This resolution was received after the deadline and is needed by the Association as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Mr. Scott Colbert and seconded by Ms. Wanda Blackwood Scott to approve GR26-040.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

13 yes votes

The motion to approve GR26-040 carried unanimously.

Mr. Scott Colbert concluded his report.

AGENDA ITEM #7 NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)

Mr. Jerry Imotichey congratulated Dr. Goforth Parker on her recent appointment as hospital administrator. He commented on a health care issue and an issue regarding Farmer's Market applications.

Mr. Mike Watson made comments on several resolutions and on a lease issue.

Chairperson Briggs presented Dr. Goforth Parker a plaque in acknowledgment for her service as a Legislator.

AGENDA ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Goforth Parker, Secretary

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

Submitted by: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

Oklahoma Optical

OKLAHOMA OPTICAL

Oklahoma Optical is now located at 1005 North Country Club Road in Ada, Oklahoma.

A new showroom and large display area makes finding the right style more convenient for customers!

Oklahoma Optical is open to everyone.

For more information, please contact Dixie Ernst-Phillips at (580) 332-2796.

Antoinette Fuhr Harrison

Antoinette Fuhr Harrison died May 29, 2009. She was born Nov. 5, 1928 at Muskogee, Okla.

Mrs. Harrison left Muskogee in 1946 and went to Langston University where she earned her bachelor's degree in French. She earned her master's degree in counseling from the University of South Carolina and later obtained her Ph.D in educational technology from the University of Oklahoma. She found great satisfaction in teaching for 22 years at Northeastern State University, at Tahlequah, Okla. She loved teaching and found particular delight in discovering new ways to keep her lessons interesting.

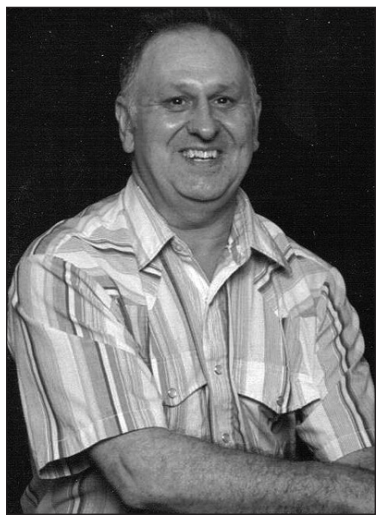
In 1954 she met and married her classmate, Floyd Harrison, and they traveled abroad spending time in several European countries. Germany was a particularly favorite place where she and a friend opened a shop in the community. She returned home with her husband in 1975. Together they raised three beautiful children.

Her retirement was the beginning of her opportunities as a volunteer. She was a naturally curious person and became involved with every organization she could. She belonged to two Salvation Army organizations, was on the advisory board and a member of the Women's Auxiliary and for three years she was involved with Habitat for Humanity. She was involved with the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and Women of Vision who are a group that visits with area high school students to try and instill a vision for themselves. She volunteered at the Muskogee Visitor's Center on U.S. 69 and was president and a life member of the Muskogee Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Ind. She volunteered at the Muskogee Regional Medical Center and was an active member of Grace Episcopal Church.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Riva Fuhr; father, Antoine Fuhr; husband, Floyd Harrison; and daughter, Amanda.

Mrs. Harrison is survived by her sons, Theodore and Michael; and many cousins and friends.

Edman Truman Dawkins



Edman "Ed" Truman Dawkins, 63, of The Dalles, Oregon died April 29, 2009. He died due to diabetes complications. He was born Sept. 10, 1945 at The Dalles.

He married Nancy Boyd June 29, 1963 at Zephyr Cove, Nev. They had three children.

He worked 34 years at The Dalles Aluminum Plant. He loved to hunt, camp, play at casinos, support the Portland Trailblazers and travel to Arizona until his health prevented him from doing so.

His Chickasaw heritage included paternal grandfather, Lonnie Edward Dawkins and paternal great-grandmother, Minnie Dawkins, Slone Love, Edmund Love, Grace Love, Claude Love, Euinice Love, Addie Love and Wallace Dawkins.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years Nancy Dawkins; son, Robert Dawkins and wife Connie; grandsons, Stephen and wife, Nicole, Michael, and Doyle, all of Montana; first great-grandson, Xander, of Montana; oldest daughter, Lisa and husband, Jeff Miller, and granddaughters, Nicole, Rebecca and Danielle Perry, all of The Dalles; youngest daughter, Tina and husband, Chris Pasto, and grandchildren, Tristan and Isabella Grace, all of Portland; sister-in-law, Laurie and husband, Mike Crause, of The Dalles; and Sally and Jack Royale, of California.

Being the youngest born of 12 children, he is survived by only one remaining sibling, his sister Kathleen Lake, of Pennsylvania and numerous nieces and nephews. Shortly after his passing, his mother-in-law, Patricia Boyd passed away.

Graveside services were May 5 at IOOF Parklawn Cemetery on Threemile Road with Tim Morelli officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, www.diabetes.org or Huntington's Korea Foundation at www.hds.org/donations.html

Martha Gail Eck

Martha Gail Eck, of Holdenville, Okla., died April 14, 2009, in the presence of her family.

She was born Feb. 12, 1946 to the late Everett and Lois Bedford of Healdton, Okla. Mrs. Eck was laid to rest in Holdenville following a memorial celebration March 17, 2009.

She married Alan Eck, of Healdton, on December 21, 1964. Their love affair spanned over 44 years and served as an example of faithful life-long love.

They have three sons, John Alan Eck, of Ada, Okla., Stephen Eck, of Edmond, Okla., and Jeremy Eck, of Oklahoma City. She found great joy and deep pride in her eight grandchildren; Summer Eck, Ethan Eck, Rebekah Eck, and Macey Eck, all of Ada, Davin and Landon Eck, of Oklahoma City, and Elijah Eck and Meredith Eck, of Edmond.

Mrs. Eck was an active member of the Church of Christ, from her earliest days in Healdton. She and her husband, Alan, served the Lord at the East Main Church of Christ in Holdenville, where Mr. Eck currently serves as the minister.

She was a woman of many talents, abilities, and competencies. Her life-long passion was teaching. Both formally, as an elementary school teacher in multiple southern-Oklahoma school systems, in her work with citizens of the Chickasaw Nation, and informally around the dining room table. Among her greatest lessons was the importance of knowing Christ, and the importance of family.

She is survived by her husband, Alan Eck; a brother, Everett Bedford, of Duncan, Okla.; and a sister Anna Jackson, of Chouteau, Okla.

Thelma Etois Emberson

Thelma Etois Emberson, 85, died June 7, 2009. She was born March 13, 1924 at Sippio, Okla., to George and Lena (Winters) Nail. Services were June 11, 2009 at Bill Eisenhour Northeast Chapel, Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Emberson enjoyed fishing, bowling and bingo.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, John James Emberson; four sons, Johnny Lee, Chris, Dennis and Bobby Emberson; three brothers, Aaron, Ted and Doyle; and a sister, Lucille.

She is survived by two sons, Doyle and Fred Emberson; a sister, Juanita Gregory; grandchildren, April, Shawn, Laurie, James, Chris Jr., James and Renee; and many great-grandchildren.

Gwendolyn Louise Leahy

Gwendolyn (Sis) Louise Leahy died May 2, 2009 at Carmichael, Calif. She was born Oct. 8, 1924 to Alphaeus LaRoyal Whitfield and Alice Jane (Lavers) Whitfield. Her mother was ¾ Chickasaw and was an original enrollee of the Dawes Commission. She is from the tribal lineage of Edmund Pickens, the first Chickasaw chief.

A Rosary was conducted May 7, followed by a service with Father John Cantwell at East Lawn Mortuary Chapel. Interment followed at East Lawn Sierra Hills Memorial Park, Sacramento.

Her father was originally a farmer and farmed the land allotted to her mother by the government, but during World War II, he went to South San Francisco, and worked at Bethleham Steel where ships were outfitted for the U.S. Navy. Mrs. Leahy also worked there for some time. Her three brothers were veterans of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Walter Leahy (1990); and a brother, Billy Gene Whitfield (2008).

She is survived by a daughter, Diane Leahy; a son, Walter Leahy and his wife, Rita; grandchildren, Connie Delano and Sean Leahy; a great-grandchild, Christopher Delano; two brothers, Marion Whitfield and Jack Whitfield, both of Comanche, Okla.; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Mildred Evelyn Mullican

Mildred Evelyn Mullican, 86, went home to be with the Lord May 26, 2009. Services were May 28, 2009 (her husband's birthday) at the Dale Cemetery, Dale, Okla., with her son, Dr. Walter L. Mullican, pastor of the Portland Avenue Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, officiating.

Mrs. Mullican had a stroke on March 2, 2009 and was ready, as she said, "to go home where she could be free." She is now free in her heavenly home where she is free from all physical limitations.

She was born May 10, 1923 at Stratford, Okla., to Louis Joel Underwood and Zadie Gober Underwood.

She worked for many years as a professional dry cleaner and seamstress having worked at cleaners in the Oklahoma City area, Shawnee, Tecumseh, and Anadarko. She loved to quilt, crochet, and tatted lace. For many years she made her own

clothes and made many articles of clothing for her children and grandchildren. Anyone who saw her backyard in Shawnee knew that she had a green thumb. She was a wonderful cook and was famous for her Thanksgiving dressing.

She was very proud of her Chickasaw heritage being ½ Chickasaw. Her father, Louis Joel Underwood, was an original Chickasaw enrollee on the Dawes Roll receiving allotment land near Stratford (Maxwell), where she was born.

In her early years, after her mother died in Phoenix, she spent eight years at the St. Patrick's Catholic Indian Boarding School.

She grew up in Anadarko where she met and married M. C. Mullican on October 8, 1938 in Chickasha. They were married for 54 years before his death in 1992.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, M. C. Mullican; brothers, Walter Underwood, Alfred Underwood, Jimmy Underwood, Johnny Underwood, Barton Underwood, Cecil Underwood, Clarence Underwood, and Darrell Underwood; sisters, Vivian Underwood, Barbara Underwood Domebo and Dorothy Underwood; brother-in-laws, James Vinyard and Thomas Ross; and granddaughter, Rhonda Sue Nix.

She is survived by a daughter, Marcella "Pinky" Nix and husband, Jimmy, of Anadarko, Okla.; two sons, Walter and wife, Kathy, of Bethany, Okla., and Stephen and wife, Kelley, of Newalla, Okla.; brothers, Billy Underwood, of Disney, Okla., Don Underwood and Calvin Underwood, both of Blanchard; sisters, Velma Ross, and Joyce Vinyard, both of Anadarko; 18 grandchildren, Becky Young of Yukon, Okla, Gina Seals, Ray Nix, and Van Cleary, all of Shawnee, Okla., James V. Nix, Tony Mullican, Daniel Mullican, and Brandi Mullican, and Brandy Lee, all of Oklahoma City, Marla Massey of McLoud, Okla., Houston Nix of Chickasha, Okla., Katy Mullican, Kristy Mullican, Andrew Mullican, Amy Mullican, all of Bethany, Okla., David Mac Mullican of Maud, Okla., and Tyler Cross, and Trevor Cross of Newalla; 12 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Vera Veatrice Bowlware

Vera Veatrice Bowlware, of Oklahoma City, died June 25, 2009. She was born August 13, 1914 in Brownwood, Texas to Fate and Lillie (Moore) Walton.

Funeral services were June 29, 2009 at the Draper Park Christian Church, Oklahoma City with interment following in Resthaven Memory Gardens.

She was a Chickasaw Indian and was especially proud of her heritage. She attended boarding school at Tishomingo Indian College. She was a member of Draper Park Christian Church.

She worked many years in retail sales and counted the people she helped and worked with as friends.

The family would like to thank the staff at Rambling Oaks Assisted Living Center and Good Shepherd Hospice for the loving care they gave her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Jewell Harris and Lou Holmes; brother, Jack Walton; husband, Lelland Bowlware and a daughter, Norma Jean Bigelow.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Carl and Leaudra Bowlware of Oklahoma City; six grandsons and their wives, Rusty and Angela Bigelow, Donnie and Adonia Bigelow, Jeff and Cindy Bigelow, Steve and Jerri Bowlware, Kevin and Traci Bowlware and Brad and Kendra Bigelow; 11 great grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; two sisters, Faith Ellen Pate of Shawnee, Okla., and Winona Borland of Kerrville, Texas; and numerous nephews, nieces, cousins and a host of friends.

Memorials may be made to Draper Park Christian Church or Good Shepherd Hospice.

Harrel Douglas McManus

Harrel Douglas McManus, 83, Ada, Okla., died June 24, 2009 at a local hospital. Services were June 26 at 32nd Street Church of Christ with Carl Johnson officiating. Burial followed at McGee Cemetery, Stratford, Okla. Military honors were conducted at the graveside by the Chickasaw Honor Guard.

He was born March 17, 1926, in Pauls Valley, Okla., to Jerry and Maybelle Fowler McManus.

He attended school at Pauls Valley and also at Oklahoma A&M. He served in the U. S. Army during World War II from 1944 – 1946 in the 195th Engineers Co. and received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, and Marksman Award.

Mr. McManus retired as a pharmaceutical salesman for McKesson-Robbins and had also been self-employed as a sign painter. He was a member of the Galey Church of Christ.

He married Lila Dean Sealey on February 19, 1955, in Gainesville, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four daughters, Harrelyn Boyett, Cynthia Bermudez, Redena McManus and Kimberly McManus; a grandson, Christopher McManus; and six brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his wife, Dean, of the home; three daughters, Karen Goodnight, and husband Stan, of Norman, Okla.; Sherri McManus and Kristina McManus, both of Ada; 11 grandchildren, Kyle Goodnight, Katie Goodnight and Madie Goodnight, all of Norman; Tyler Frazier, Brittney Frazier, Joshua Thompson, Christian Roller, Amanda Eddings and her husband Jason, Elizabeth Boyett, Nicole Willis and her husband Michael, and Ashton Ward, all of Ada; a great-grandson, Michael Greenlee, Ada; a sister, Zelma Stephens and her husband Donald Lee, of Elmore City, Okla.; and two brothers, Odie McManus and his wife Wilma, and Bill McManus and his wife Shirley, all of Pauls Valley.

Bearers were grandsons, Kyle Goodnight, Joshua Thompson, Michael Willis, Tyler Frazier, friend, Eddie Easterling, and nephew, Gerald Sealey.

Honorary bearers were Governor Bill Anoatubby, Bill Lance and Brian Campbell.

RESOLUTIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

Presented by: Human Resources Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number 26-050

Assurances for the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Southern Plains

Office of Native American Programs

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for an Indian Community Development Block Grant (ARRA) for a community facility funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for the establishment of a facility in which family members of Carl Albert Indian Hospital patients may stay overnight at reduced or no cost, in Ada, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma. The progress on this project will be provided in the development budget monthly report.

Presented by: Human Resources Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number 26-051

Gubernatorial Reappointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society

(Michael Cornelius)

Explanation: This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. Michael Cornelius to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society. Mr. Cornelius will fill an unexpired term ending on October 1, 2011.

Presented by: Human Resources Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number 26-052

Gubernatorial Reappointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society

(Adam Stafford)

Explanation: This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. Adam Stafford to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society. Mr. Stafford will fill an unexpired term ending on October 1, 2011.

Presented by: Human Resources Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

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Chickasaw Citizen Owned

Letters to Editor:

Thanks to our tribe

Dear Editor:

The Memorial Day Gospel Singing Association wishes to express our thanks to the Chickasaw Nation for its support in making this year's Memorial Day Singing quite a success!

The Nation provided a tent, tables and chairs and afforded a place for all attendees to the event a place to sit and enjoy the evening meal and the singing. The people attending were from all parts of the state, incuding several different tribes and one and all were quite appreciative for the venue.

This is the sixth year of this event, and look forward to a even larger and greater event next year!

So, once again thanks to all the staff of the Chickasaw Nation who made this happen!

Sincerely,

Ben Alexander, Connerville

Memorial Day Gospel Singing Association

Because of you

To Governor Anoatubby and all of the elected officials, to all Chickasaw Nation employees everywhere,

Because of you, I can now see the sunset clearly.

Because of you, I can now hear the birds sing again.

Because of you, I can eat peanuts again.

Because of you, I can now have the right medication.

Because of you, I can now be cool in the summer and warm and safe in the winter.

Because of you, there are miracles happening within the Nation everyday.

Because of you, I now feel like I belong to something.

Because of you, I feel Happy, secure and safe again.

Because of you, everything is possible.

Thank you for being there.

A Chickasaw citizen

Indian Falls Creek set for July 27-31

Indian Falls Creek, the nation's largest gathering of Native American Baptists, is coming up.

During the week of July 27-31, Native people from across the nation will come to Davis, Oklahoma to attend Indian Falls Creek 2009. This year's theme is "For Such a Time…" taken from Esther 4:14.

Dr. Anthony Jordan, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, will be the camp preacher for this year's camp.

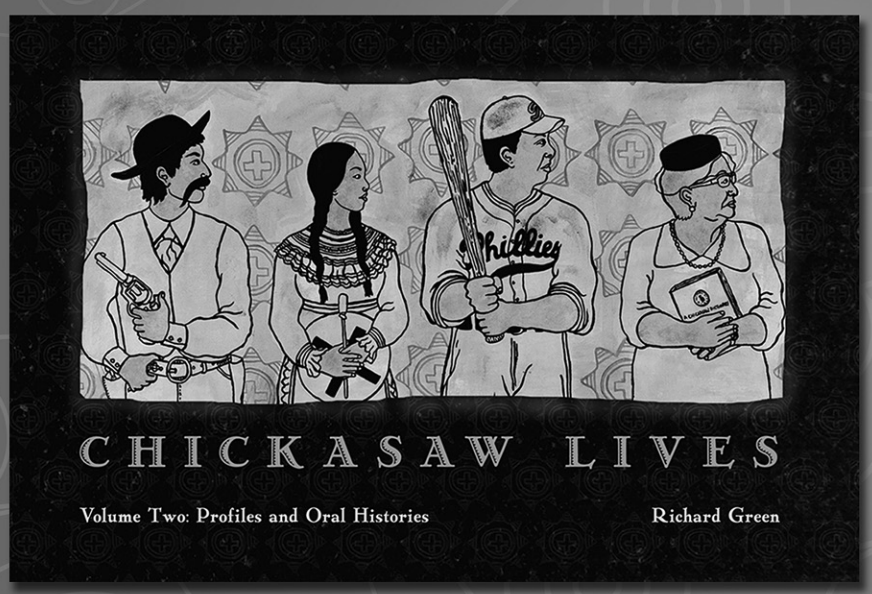
For more information please contact the IFC Publicity Director, Ginelle Gordon, at ifc.publicity@yahoo.com. Hope to see you there!

BOOK SIGNING JULY 25

Chickasaw Lives *Volume II: Profiles and Oral Histories*

By Richard Green, Tribal Historian of the Chickasaw Nation

The Chickasaw Press announces the release of Richard Green's newest book, *Chickasaw Lives, Volume Two: Profiles and Oral Histories*. The author and tribal historian will be featured at a book signing at Full Circle Bookstore in Oklahoma City July 25 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Full Circle Bookstore is located on the first level of 50 Penn Place.



When Richard Green was named tribal historian of the Chickasaw Nation in 1994, one of his first tasks was to interview individual Chickasaws and write about their life stories. *Chickasaw Lives, Volume Two: Profiles and Oral Histories* is a unique compilation of that work.

The second in a series to be published, this book showcases biographies and oral histories of the following: Fred Tecumseh Waite, Mike Larsen, Amos Hays, LaDonna Brown, Donna Rausch, Dan Collins, Carlin Thompson, Kennedy Brown, Helen "Te Ata" Cole, Gene Moore, Tom Phillips, Vinnie May Humes, Raymond Harvey, Geraldine Greenwood, Julia Blue, Wenonah Wolf Toregas, Floyd Maytubby, E. B. "Hugh" Maytubby, Overton James, Abe Ned, Oscar White, Juanita Holden Byars, Jesse "Cab" Renick, Jeannie Barbour, Eric Henson, Claud Johnson, Darrell Walker, Yvonne Alberson, Bob Kinnebrew, Mary "Ataloa" Stone McClendon, Mary "Te Ata" Thompson Fisher, Neil Kingsley, Euel "Monk" Moore, Glenda Galvan, Pat Woods and Haskell Alexander.

www.chickasawpress.com (580) 559-0547

The Chickasaw Press is a department of the Chickasaw Nation Division of History and Culture.